

FRIDAY 30p EVERY WEEKDAY. Don't wear a hat if you want to get ahead page 23. A leisurewear king takes to the hustings, page 22. Waiting for the World Cup.

Licence fee may be reduced to speed up switch to digital TV

By Chris Ayres. A PROPOSAL to cut the television licence fee for viewers who sign up for multi-channel digital services is being considered by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

top boxes — the devices needed to receive digital signals. A lower fee would follow moves by the Italian Government to encourage digital television by cutting the rate of VAT to four per cent for set-top boxes.

Strike threat by BBC technicians to World Cup and Wimbledon

Radio 4's Today and BBC television's Breakfast News were cancelled during a 24-hour strike by technicians yesterday. Classical music was played on Radio 4 and Breakfast News was replaced with a repeat of Call My Bluff.

were on strike but BBC — the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union — insisted that the figure was nearer 15,000. Bectu is striking over plans to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in which staff will be contracted out to work for outside organisations.

of radio and television to all in exchange for a common licence fee. Anything that suggests a variance of that would be to destroy the function of the BBC as we know it.

So far, the public has given a lukewarm response to the proposed services, which offer up to 200 television channels, advanced electronic programme guides, and eventually, home shopping and banking services.

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Portraits of Lynne Truss, Peter Brookes, and Matthew Parris with their names and brief descriptions.

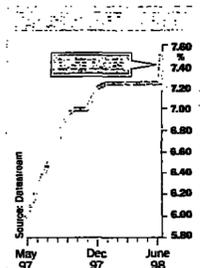
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Treasury team blames inflation-busting pay rises

Interest rise blow for exporters

By Janet Bush, Caroline Merrell and Philip Webster

THE Bank of England raised interest rates yesterday in a move that stunned the City and left business angry and fearful.



Home-buyers appear to have been relieved for the time being as lenders decided against an immediate increase in mortgage rates, but most were considering their position.

increase was as unnecessary as it was unexpected. "It increases the risk of a hard landing and will hit investment and jobs."

The quarter-point increase in the base rate, to 7.5 per cent, was the sixth since Labour came to power last May, but the first this year and it could not have been more unexpected.

However, some City economists took issue with the Bank's fears on wages. Government statisticians have been at pains to emphasise that March's average earnings growth was boosted by one-off bonus payments.

& Spencer workers was an important factor in the decision. The Prime Minister's spokesman said: "If companies pay their staff more than the rate of inflation, there is going to be a link."

insurance policy against a burst of wage inflation at a time when the economy was slowing sharply. His remarks coincided with a CBI survey showing that retail sales were growing at their slowest rate since November 1995.

Pay is one of the Government's greatest concerns. The Chancellor has given the clearest warning only this week that the squeeze on millions of public sector workers will continue, and both he and Tony Blair have emphasised in a succession of speeches that the private sector should show the same responsibility.

The financial markets also reacted with alarm — shares slumped and sterling jumped two pence within minutes of the announcement — but nerves soon calmed and a consensus emerged that rates would not rise again.

The committee was clearly alarmed by figures showing that average earnings growth had jumped to 5.4 per cent in March, while both the Government and City experts suggested that a 5.25 per cent pay award for up to 57,000 Marks

The markets are now watching mortgage lenders, with some analysts suggesting that if they do not follow the Bank, the pressure may build for another rate rise.

Halifax, the biggest lender, has followed each of the last five base rate increases and if it does so again other lenders are sure to follow.



Michael Atherton, England's former captain, leaves the field with Alec Stewart, current captain, after England had a magnificent start to the first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston. Unbeaten Atherton scored 103 of England's 249-1. Page 56

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Mammon goes to Lambeth

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

ARCHBISHOPS and bishops at next month's Lambeth conference will be offered souvenirs including a "mitre and crook" tie, a fuzzy "promotional bug", stress balls and a baseball cap.

items that are notably religious are an "ecclesiastically approved" church candle for £5 and polished pewter wine goblet for £15.

The cheapest goods are gold-embossed bookmarks, pens, notepads and keyrings, all branded with the Compass Rose conference logo and starting at about £1 each.

afterwards. The "mitre and crook" tie can be had for £9, in polyester, and £15 in a silk and polyester mix.

He said the three-week conference, which begins in July at Kent University at Canterbury, would make a small profit on each item sold.

Nude to adorn the Dome

By Dominic Kennedy

A NAKED, long-legged red-head reaching for a star as dawn breaks over the windswept Greenwich Meridian has been chosen as the £90,000 symbol of the Millennium Dome.

both that victory and the millennium exhibition. Less respectfully, she has been dubbed "Ginger Spice". Michael Heseltine, the Millennium Commissioner and former Deputy Prime Minister, is said to have been underwhelmed when he saw the figure, based on female icons from prehistory to the current day.

notepaper and marketing material. Mr Reddy said: "It is my idea of how women are. They are much more rounded people, much stronger and more capable than most men I know. The mother symbol is much more potent than a male."



The logo was drawn from the bronze relief sculpture created by Mr Reddy, 45, at his studio near Norwich. The artist was paid £90,000 of lottery money by the New Millennium Experience Company, which chose the symbol, for the rights to reproduce pictures of the work on tickets, posters,

The logo has also been nicknamed "New Britannia" in honour of Tony Blair's winning election slogan "New Labour, New Britain", and Peter Mandelson's role in

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# Fear of drowning for critic who swam against the tide

**W**orrying news for the citizens of Thurrock, Essex, as they gaze out over the Thames Estuary this morning. Their MP, Andrew Mackinlay, was absent from Agriculture Questions yesterday. Fears grow that Labour's party machine at Millbank may have terminated him.

As we reported yesterday, heroic Mr Mackinlay is the Labour backbencher who on Wednesday tweeted Tony Blair about the severity of his own backbenchers. Mr Blair was not amused. We worried for our hero's safety. And when we saw the Question he

had tabled (never reached), worries increased. Is this ruthless Government planning to drown him?

The Thurrock MP, whose low-lying constituency is lapped by the Thames, had planned to ask ministers: "... on sea levels in the Thames Estuary and River Medway what progress the Environment Agency has made in respect of its surveys into sea level rises?"

A moment's study shows that even a marginal rise in the waters of the Estuary could wipe out Thurrock completely, submerging all its residents. Those familiar with

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

The methods of Mr Blair's Stasi can picture the scene. A flinty-faced Glaswegian whip (Thomas McAvooy, maybe) taps Mackinlay's shoulder in a dark Commons Corridor. "Ever visited the Thames Barrage, sonny?"

"As a matter of fact, I have. It's upstream of Thurrock."

"Upstream, sonny?"

"If the tide's going out."

"And if not?"

"Well, downstream."

"Yip. And s'pose a little accident should happen. Prescott presses a button by mistake - you know how absent-minded our friend can be. Tide racing in past Thurrock. Barrage gates slam shut. Water backs up. Massive surge. Oops. Glug. Nice new lake! We seem to have mislaid a Thurrock..."

"You wouldn't dare!"

"Got a swimsuit, sonny? There's a range down Victoria

Street at the Army & Navy." With that, the whip disappears into the night.

Not that Mackinlay is the only threatened MP. A ministerial reshuffle is in the wind, and the Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham and his junior, Jeff Rooker, looked nervous as they answered Questions on BSE in cattle. Jaws tightened when the word "cull" was mentioned. But few failed to suppress an embarrassed smile when William Thompson (UUP, Tyrone W) declared "the cull is complete in Northern Ireland." Or so we all pray.

Perhaps distracted by ministerial culls, Jeff Rooker abruptly announced that "there are ten billion bees in Britain". So they're counting the bees, now. Are these new Labour bees or off-message bees? Has he asked his civil servants to count them, or are ministers themselves patrolling hives with calculators? This Government's instinct to control is frightening.

Two Labour backbenchers who continue to escape its grip, however, are Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) and Gordon Prentice (Pendle). Mr Prentice began his Question on antibiotics: "we face a biological Armageddon!"

(Laughter). "And that's not overstating..." (Laughter). "Well, maybe..." (Laughter). "But seriously..." (Laughter). "no, seriously..." (Laughter). "seriously!"

This week marks a red-letter day in the Bolsover calendar as Mr Skinner moves from his winter to summer outfit. On Monday his lightweight sports-wear, grey trousers and scarlet tie emerged from the Skinner wardrobe. He wore the same items on Tuesday, Wednesday saw no variation. On Thursday only the socks changed. If you see him today, let me know what he's wearing.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ministers close down World Cup ticket firm

A ticket agency suspected of taking £2.4 million from football supporters for black market World Cup tickets it does not have was presented with a winding-up petition by the Government in the High Court.

Ministers began proceedings to liquidate Great Portland Entertainment Ltd after a string of complaints from fans that World Cup tickets bought from the company had not been delivered as promised. The agency has taken more than £2.4 million to provide more than 40,000 tickets for the tournament, which begins on Wednesday, yet hundreds have not been received by their buyers.

Great Portland Entertainment is not one of the agents authorised by the Football Association to sell World Cup tickets. The Official Receiver was placed in temporary control of the company pending a full hearing on July 22.

Game plan, page 11  
Sport, pages 47-54

### Sorensen role

Eric Sorensen, who resigned as head of the Millennium Commission in January, saying he had too little to do, has been given a role in London's "shadow" government. Mr Sorensen, 55, from North London, starts work on Monday as chief executive of the London Development Partnership, created by businesses and councils to pave the way for a development agency.

### Tube strike

A two-day strike was announced by London Underground workers, threatening severe disruption across the Tube network for three days this month. Members of the Rail Maritime and Transport union, including drivers and station staff, will not report for work from the evening of Sunday, June 14, until the evening of Tuesday, June 16.

### Beaches clean up

A total of 51 beaches and marinas in the United Kingdom have been awarded Blue Flags for their high standards of cleanliness and facilities. Forty-five beaches have been given the award, compared with 38 last year, putting Britain near the top of the European table. Criteria include beach cleanliness and the bathing water reaching EC standards.

### Heroin deaths

The bodies of two unemployed drug addicts, Laura Springett, 31, and Ralph Lewis, 33, were discovered together at her flat in Wimbledon soon after they had bought heroin doses. Scotland Yard detectives are now waiting for the results of laboratory tests on the drugs the pair had used and have issued a warning of possible danger to other addicts.

### Peak record

Jonathan Pratt, 38, a climber from Essex, claimed yesterday to be the first Briton to conquer the world's five highest mountains after reaching the summit of Kanchenjunga. At 27,905ft it is the third highest peak in the world. Ginette Harrison, 40, who joined him on Kanchenjunga, has now become the first British woman to climb that mountain.



Emma Noble wore a "virginal" white dress

## Two Majors upstaged in Noble cause

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**JOHN MAJOR**, once the star turn at the House of Commons, was upstaged by his son and future daughter-in-law yesterday.

The former Prime Minister escorted James and his soberly dressed fiancée Emma Noble around the Palace of Westminster yesterday afternoon.

But it was Miss Noble, the former television hostess who recently announced her engagement to Mr Major's son, who was the centre of attraction.

MPs and tourists virtually ignored Mr Major as they tried to catch a glimpse of Miss Noble, who caused a stir when she arrived at the recent Baffa awards in a see-through black dress.

But there was no need for the Speaker to call Order yesterday. Miss Noble wore a knee-length white dress that was described as "virginal" by one onlooker. Autograph hunters had a field day but they were not seeking the signature of Mr Major but the latest recruit to his family.

After a tour of the Palace of Westminster the trio relaxed on the House of Commons terrace. They left armed with gifts from the Commons souvenir shop.

## Straw sets out strategy to stop sex offenders

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW criminal offence banning paedophiles from applying for jobs involving children is to be introduced by Jack Straw as part of a series of measures to protect young children.

Ministers have decided to act because of fears that loopholes are leaving children vulnerable to sex offenders. Alun Michael, the Home Office Minister, announced yesterday that a new working group, involving officials from three government departments, would consider three initiatives to crack down on paedophiles. They are:

- A central register of convicted and suspected paedophiles to replace the three existing registers held by the police and the Departments of Education and Health;
- A new criminal offence for anyone on the list who attempts to work with children;
- Further measures to protect 16 and 17 year olds who are vulnerable to abuse from carers and teachers.

Mr Michael said: "We are already taking action on a number of fronts to protect children and vulnerable adults. We must work together to make sure that there are no loopholes."

The Government's plans are similar to proposals last year by Michael Howard, the former Conservative Home Secretary. They came to nothing when the Tories lost the election.

Mr Michael's announcement builds on a series of initiatives by the Government

in the last year to protect children from paedophiles. Last September all sex offenders had to register their names and addresses with police or face six months in jail or a £5,000 fine. The Department for Education and Employment holds a separate register, known as List 99, of all paedophiles who cannot be employed by schools. The Department of Health maintains a "consultancy index" of people suspected of preying upon children, whom statutory agencies are warned against employing.

The Home Office has stepped up its measures against sex offenders in recent months after the furore caused by the announcement that six dangerous paedophiles will be released from jail without supervision over the next two years. The offenders are similar to the child-killers Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke who were released from prison after serving their sentences for the manslaughter of the teenager Jason Swift, who was killed by a gang of paedophiles after they captured and abused him.

The Home Secretary announced last month that dangerous sex offenders are to be identified before they are released from jail in an effort to prevent the public protests that accompanied the release of Cooke and Oliver.

Under the initiative the Government will contribute to the costs of keeping such offenders in hostels or medium-security units.



Officials and rescuers at Moorside. The survivor said: "There was no warning, the roof just gave away"

## Miners killed in tunnel collapse

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO miners died yesterday in a rockfall which almost claimed the life of a third man working yards away. The three had been repairing tunnel supports 30 yards underground at the privately-owned Moorside Colliery at Eckington, near Sheffield.

The two dead men were named as Alan Hill, 50, and David Martin, 48. The third man, Harry Wilson, suffered cuts and bruises. All three came from the village of Poolbrook, near Chesterfield. Mr Hill, who lived next door to Mr Wilson, was the mine's acting manager and had previously been a senior overman with British Coal.

Mr Wilson, 47, a father of three, was probably saved by a support for a coal conveyor belt when the roof collapsed into the drift shaft about 800 yards from the

entrance. He threw himself headlong under the machinery.

He said: "I was lucky, the bar took much of the force of the fall. We had only been working for about 20 minutes and were just about to start on the last support. There was no warning, nothing, with my hands to get to my mates but it was impossible."

"After a while, when the dust had cleared, I saw there was a gap of about 9in in the fall, but to get out through it I had to remove my helmet light battery from my back and go through in the dark. On the other side, I was able to reach a telephone and call for help."

Experts from the Mines Rescue Service and the emergency services were on the scene soon after the collapse, and brought Mr Wilson out almost immediately. It was several hours before they could free

the bodies of the two trapped men. The pit was sealed off by officials from the Mines Inspectorate and Health and Safety Executive, who launched an immediate investigation.

Their inquiry, which is expected to last several days, means that production at the mine will be halted until it is completed. A coroner's investigation will also be carried out.

Bob Stephenson, the Health and Safety Executive's principal mines inspector, said that the drift mine was opened in 1993 and had previously had a good safety record. It had recently been inspected. He said of the accident: "It was a catastrophic fall of about 200 tonnes which came suddenly and without warning."

Alan Roberts, owner of the Moorside Mining Company, who has run mines for 27 years, said: "We are devastated. This is the first serious accident we have had."

## Scientist attacks BSE research

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people who have eaten beef infected with "mad cow" disease could be much higher than previously thought because of shortcomings in government research, the BSE inquiry heard yesterday.

John Collinge, head of neurogenetics at the Imperial College School of Medicine at St Mary's, in London, said the methods used by the Ministry of Agriculture could detect only fairly high levels of infectivity.

This meant that infectivity might have been present in

low amounts in a wider range of cattle tissue than had been supposed, possibly including muscle, and not just in processed meat products containing brain or spinal cord.

Professor Collinge, who was at the forefront of research linking BSE to its fatal human equivalent, new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, said: "I am not worried about any current exposure of the population to BSE."

He said he was satisfied that, with no animals over 30 months old now being allowed into the food chain, the risk of

anyone currently being exposed to infected meat was extremely unlikely.

But he was concerned that the number of people exposed to risk in the past could have been much higher and that this would have an impact on the total number who would develop new-variant CJD in the future.

Professor Collinge said that this, coupled with the probability of a long incubation period for the disease, made him "a bit pessimistic" that "we are going to see a lot more cases", though he declined to

speculate on numbers. Since the first case was reported in 1995, new-variant CJD has killed 25 people, most of them under the age of 30.

It was still not known whether the human victims of new-variant CJD had eaten "one unfortunate meal containing a lethal dose", or had been infected by repeated exposure to very low doses.

On Wednesday other scientists told the inquiry that they could still not rule out the possibility that thousands of people might eventually die.

The inquiry continues.

## Killing report 'toned down'

BY LIN JENKINS

AN INTERNAL police review into the handling of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry was toned down to avoid criticism of particular officers, its author admitted yesterday.

Detective Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker conceded his conclusion that the inquiry had been "professional" and "satisfactory" was not his real opinion. He angrily rejected an allegation that his approach to the review amounted to a "cover-up", claiming that he was advised that it might be disclosed to the defence in the event of a

trial and jeopardise a successful prosecution.

Mr Barker, now retired, said he had been the sixth person asked to conduct the review and was warned by Commander Hugh Blenkins that it was not a disciplinary matter and not designed to undermine the inquiry team.

A subsequent inquiry by Kent police on behalf of the Police Complaints Authority concluded that the review report had hampered subsequent attempts to solve the crime because police were misinformed. It also formed

the basis of public explanations by senior officers about the handling of the case.

The review was carried out when the inquiry into the fatal stabbing of the 18-year-old A-level student in a racist attack at Eltham, south east London in April 1993 failed to find the perpetrators. Mr Barker told the public inquiry into the death that he conceded there were a significant number of inaccuracies and omissions in his report. His original conclusion that "all lines of inquiry had been correctly pursued", was no longer his view.

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THE TIMES

# Murder

# Bill 'had'

Joanna Bale

# Judge o a chance

# Murder guest thought the arresting policeman was part of the plot

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

IT WAS late in the evening at a hotel near Loch Lomond when the police arrived. Fifty well-heeled guests were deep in discussion of "Hen Night", the murder mystery game they had come to play. The drink was flowing and the spirit of Agatha Christie's country house crimes was in the air.

A group of actors had just acted out a scene in which three old university friends met up for a hen night that turned to tragedy. An ex-

boyfriend arrives as the kisser, somebody is shot and police come to investigate.

After their deliberations, the guests were told to sleep on them and deliver their verdict the following morning. They were encouraged to trust no one and suspect everyone.

So when two officers knocked on the door of the room where Caroline Shand, 38, and other guests were discussing the evidence, they were greeted with scepticism mixed with abuse. As

they tried to arrest Mrs Shand and take her to the cells, she lashed out, biting and kicking the officers.

Even the next morning when she woke up behind bars, she still thought it was part of the game. Only yesterday, as she was fined £300 at Stirling Sheriff Court for breach of the peace, could she be sure that her arrest had been for real.

Mrs Shand's solicitor, William Boyle, said: "Initially, when police officers arrived she thought it was part of the role playing." As they

tried to lead her from the hotel, she hit out at PC Andrew Thomson, biting him on the shoulder and kicking him in the leg.

Mr Boyle said: "Apparently in the morning the officer noted the accused was still laughing and still thought her arrest was part of the murder mystery weekend. She accepts that at some stage that changed and it was obvious they were police officers."

He added: "In a surreal environment, she got beyond herself. I do not think it would have occurred in

normal circumstances. She was a bit hyperactive because of the murder mystery weekend."

During the evening of October 18, Mrs Shand, a charity worker, housewife and mother from Arbroath, had retired to a room at the Winlock Hotel in Drymen with fellow guests and plenty to drink to consider the murder. When they became rowdy, the duty manager called to quieten them down. Mrs Shand told her to shut up, at which point the manager called the police. Attend-

ing court in a smart green tartan jacket and black trousers, she was said by her lawyer to be deeply ashamed of her behaviour.

He said: "She had been a good solid citizen. She's happily married with a stable family unit." Mrs Shand, who has a nine-year old child, pleaded guilty to breaching the peace and assaulting the police officers.

Fining her £75 for the breach of the peace, £125 for biting PC Thomson and £100 for kicking him, Sheriff Robert Younger

said: "This seems to have been a one-off matter for you."

A spokesman for the Winlock Hotel said yesterday that most guests on the popular murder mystery weekends were able to distinguish between fiction and reality. He said: "The woman genuinely did think it was part of the plot, but it was because she had had so much to drink. It may make an amusing story, but it was not amusing at the time."

Mrs Shand refused to comment as she left court.

# Billie-Jo accused 'had bloody clothes'

Joanna Bale on claims of 'tell-tale' evidence linking foster father to murder

THE foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins savagely beat her across the head with a heavy metal spike, leaving tell-tale microscopic specks of blood splattered across his clothes, a court was told yesterday.

The tiny traces are "incontrovertible evidence" that Sion Jenkins murdered the 13-year-old in the back garden of their home as she painted patio doors, it was alleged. The former deputy headmaster denies murder.

No motive for the killing was given and it could well be a secret the child took with her to her grave, Lewes Crown Court was told.

As Richard Camden Pratt QC, for the prosecution, showed the 18-inch murder weapon to the jury, he said: "Billie-Jo was savagely beaten about the head with a heavy metal spike. It has been described as a tent peg, but its original purpose was to hold in the ground a child's swing. "When the defendant's clothing was examined, upon it were splatters of blood. When they were tested, they turned out to be the blood of Billie-Jo. That pattern of spattering is consistent with the defendant having stood very close to Billie-Jo when she was being struck. It is not consistent with attending to a dead blood-stained body."

"The defendant, Mr Jenkins, denies being present when she was struck. In view of that blood spattering, the Crown says he must be lying and the only reason that he would be lying is because he



Billie-Jo Jenkins: beaten with a heavy metal spike

was the one who inflicted the fatal blows."

Mr Camden Pratt then outlined the events which led up to Billie-Jo's murder on February 15 last year. On the day she died, the teenager, who had been fostered by Mr Jenkins and his social worker wife Lois for five years, had been helping out with chores around their home in Hastings.

Around lunchtime, Mrs Jenkins took three of the couple's four natural daughters, Annie, then 12, Esther, 9 and Maya, 7, shopping, while Lottie, 10, went to the cinema

with friends. She rang her husband from the supermarket to ask him to bring a chequebook because she had forgotten to take any money. When he arrived at Safeway, he found he had taken an empty chequebook, so had to return home to find another one. "It must have been one of perhaps several, frustrating events that day for Mr Jenkins," said Mr Camden Pratt.

Later that day, after the family had returned home, Lottie was taken to a clarinet lesson by the mother of her friend Ellen Carey. Once

Lottie had left, Mr Jenkins realised that he was due to pick the girls up, said Mr Camden Pratt, but "perhaps again, it annoyingly occurred to the defendant that he did not know where he was to collect his daughter."

His wife, who was planning to go out, had to go with him in the car to point out the house so that he would know where to go. "A rather pointless and frustrating journey, you may think," said Mr Camden Pratt.

Mrs Jenkins then took her two younger daughters for an afternoon walk by the sea, leaving her husband to supervise Billie-Jo and Annie with their chores. Billie-Jo first swept the patio, while Annie cleaned out a utility cupboard, leaving three metal tent pegs on the coal bunker in the garden.

Mr Jenkins went with Annie in his car to pick up Lottie and endured more problems when he was told that he had to take her friend Ellen home as well. He returned to find Billie-Jo still painting the patio doors. When the two younger girls were outside the front of the house cleaning two of the family's three cars, it is alleged that Mr Jenkins murdered Billie-Jo.

Mr Camden Pratt said: "It may well be that the motive for this crime is never known. It may have gone to the grave with Billie-Jo Jenkins."

Mr Jenkins went outside and told Lottie and Annie that he needed to buy white spirit because Billie-Jo had split



Sion Jenkins, who denies murdering his foster daughter, Billie-Jo, arriving at Lewes Crown Court yesterday

paint, the court was told. Mr Camden Pratt said: "It is the Crown's case that the white spirit was a pretence, an excuse to get him and the children away from the house. When the police were later to search the house they were to find in the utility room in a cupboard, a half full container of white spirit... he had no need to purchase any."

The court was told that Mr Jenkins had no money on him and did not drive straight to the DIY store but circled a park, driving past his house one more time. On his return

to the house, Lottie went into the dining room first and discovered Billie-Jo's body, lying in a pool of blood on the patio. Instead of rushing to the body, the court was told, he ushered his crying daughters out of the room.

Mr Camden Pratt said: "The Crown would suggest that this was because he knew that Billie-Jo was dead and beyond help because it was he that killed her."

He called an ambulance and told the operator that Billie-Jo had had an accident, then rang a neighbour, who

arrived to find him standing away from the body. When the ambulance arrived, he got into his MG sports car, but then changed his mind and went back into the house.

Mr Camden Pratt said: "He says he wasn't in it for very long, then he thought 'what the bloody hell am I doing here?', then got out of his car to join the others."

A post-mortem examination showed that Billie-Jo's skull had been shattered after being struck several times with the tent peg. Mr Jenkins's trousers and fleece jacket were

found to be covered in dozens of tiny drops of her blood, the court was told.

Mr Camden Pratt said Mr Jenkins had lied to the emergency services about how long Billie-Jo had been left alone. "Obviously say the Crown, the longer the time he would give, the easier it would be to suggest that complete stranger walked in off the street, perpetrated the murder with a weapon he had found there and left without stealing anything and not being seen by anyone."

The case continues.

## Judge offers Safari Boy a chance to rehabilitate

LOCKING up Mark Hook, the youth more widely known as Safari Boy, is not protecting the public from his incessant crimes, a judge said yesterday.

Judge Paul Barclay ruled it was time to give Hook another chance of being rehabilitated, five years after the youngster was taken on an 88-day trip to Africa at public expense to try to reform him.

This time Hook has the chance of a shorter journey - to a drug rehabilitation unit in Coventry - if public money can be found to fund it. Hook, 21, from Gloucester, who has been in regular trouble since his African safari in 1993, appeared at Gloucester Crown Court as a result of breaking into a house and then attacking neighbours who caught

him. Residents caught Hook and pulled him to the ground but he managed to injure two of them with a knife and a screwdriver during the struggle. Judge Barclay commended the neighbours for their public spirited action in detaining Hook.

But the judge said that despite the seriousness of the crime, Hook should have the chance to break out of his cycle of drug-taking, offending and jail. Judge Barclay said he would be prepared to send Hook to the Murray Lodge drug rehabilitation unit in Coventry if public funding could be found to finance his treatment there.

He reminded Hook in custody while inquiries are made about funding. He said that if

the money was available he would grant Hook bail to go to the hostel for assessment, and if he was then acceptable he would be sent there on probation. The alternative would be at least three years in prison, added the judge.

Hook admitted aggravated burglary on January 3 this year and assaulting Clive Speck and Andrew Coty when they apprehended him. It was five years ago that Hook was at the centre of a national outcry when it was revealed that, while awaiting sentence for a string of offences, he had been taken on his Safari to Egypt and Kenya.

A social worker accompanied him as he saw the sights of Africa, among them the Pyramids and Victoria Falls.

## Wife harassed her husband's boss

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WIFE made 700 nuisance calls to a woman she believed was bullying her husband at work. Helen Stephenson made up to 12 calls a day to Angela Snowdon, a senior council officer, whom she thought was dominating and was undermining her husband, Malcolm, a computer services operator at Darlington council.

Mr Stephenson had hoped to gain promotion at work but felt his superior was threatening his chances. His doctor prescribed him medication after he complained of stress.

Magistrates in Richmond, North Yorkshire, were told that the calls continued for six months from last October and were made to Mrs Snowdon's

home and office. The court heard that most of the calls made by Stephenson, 30, were silent but, on one occasion, the caller spoke briefly, describing Mrs Snowdon a "pea brain".

David Tucker, for the prosecution, said: "This remarkable campaign was undertaken by this lady because she thought her husband was being undermined at work by Mrs Snowdon."

Paul Pacitto, for Stephenson, said: "Mrs Snowdon was a very dominant and domineering lady at work. The problem festered and Mr Stephenson was letting frustration build up, taking it home to his wife."

Stephenson, from Darlington, Co Durham, was fined £300 after admitting causing harassment.

## Pensioner was danger to public, says gas-spray PC

By ADAM FRESCO

A POLICEMAN squirted CS spray into the face of a pensioner parked on double yellow lines because he considered him a "threat to the public", a court was told.

PC Andrew Taylor denied that he had "lost his cool" with Kenneth Whitaker, 67, who was dropping his 76-year-old disabled wife at the hairdressers, but claimed he did get annoyed because the pensioner tried to bite him during the incident in May last year, Luton Crown court heard.

The 6ft 2in officer said: "I was annoyed because he was a danger to me and had already tried to assault me, but I did not lose my cool."

Mr Taylor, a policeman for

eight years, denies assault occasioning actual bodily harm, the first time a policeman has been prosecuted for misuse of CS spray. Mr Whitaker was arrested, handcuffed and held in a police station for nine hours and suffered temporary blindness following the incident in Kempston, Bedfordshire.

The officer told the court that Mr Whitaker refused to give his name, was abusive towards him and another officer, and attempted to bite his arm. He used CS spray because he thought Mr Whitaker posed a danger to him and another officer.

Stuart Trimmer, for the prosecution, asked: "You are saying he (was) a threat to the public?" Mr Taylor replied:

"Yes. I consider somebody stopping on a roundabout to be a danger to other road users." Mr Trimmer: "A threat to the public? Would you like to reconsider that?"

Mr Taylor replied: "No." Mr Taylor denied making up the claim that Mr Whitaker had tried to bite him, to justify squirting him with CS gas. He admitted that he never asked the former insurance company worker why he was parked there.

Mr Taylor said he had decided to give Mr Whitaker a ticket for parking on a double yellow line after he was rude when asked to move on. "You were saying a lippy driver gets a ticket," said Mr Trimmer. Mr Taylor replied: "Yes." The trial continues.



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# One big happy family ... after 25 years apart

Eleven grown-up children gathered from around the world for a giant reunion, reports Alan Hamilton

THIS is the family snapshot that will probably never be repeated. It's all very well asking the children back home for the weekend, but when there are 11 of them scattered around the globe, it becomes a logistical nightmare.

But Joe and Norma Mutty managed it, by a combination of intensive planning and a fair measure of good luck. When the brood assembled at their parents' home in Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, it was the first time that they had all been together for 25 years.

The family have tried reunions in the past — the last for Mrs Mutty's 70th birthday last year — but there has always been someone missing. This week, for the first time, they managed the full set, accompanied by a large assortment of wives, husbands and children.

Mrs Mutty had, roughly speaking, a child a year. Her youngest was six when her eldest left home at 16. For 14 years, Mrs Mutty washed a daily mountain of nappies and scoured jumble sales and church bazaars to clothe her growing brood.

Getting them all to school in the morning required military-style planning, with each child's kit laid out in neat rows, ready to be jumped into. "I used to imagine that, like Rose Kennedy, we would all sit around a huge table at mealtimes, talking and chatting, but it never happened.

They were never ready all at the same time," Mrs Mutty said yesterday.

"I am not a child person — it was always my sister who would go gaga at the sight of a baby, but I never did. Still, it seemed a good idea at the time."

Nicky Mutty, wife of the couple's youngest son, Paul, set about arranging the reunion when she heard that the second eldest son, Peter, who lives in Australia, would be making a rare trip to Europe.

The children are: Joseph, 43: left home at 16 to live in France for nine years, before setting up a travel business in San Francisco. Now works as a translator for Radio Havana in Cuba. Divorced with a stepson.

Ann, 41: lived in Spain before marrying and opening a grocery store in Great Shelford, near Cambridge. Divorced, and now married to a Cambridge University professor, living in the city with her two children.

Peter, 40: went to agricultural college, moved to America, then emigrated to Australia 16 years ago, where he lives with wife, Anne, in Perth. No children.

Helen, 39: married an Egyptian and lived in Egypt for five years before divorcing and returning to England. Now married to Wim Kamper and living in Caldecote, Bedfordshire, with two children.



The Mutties reunited in Cambridgeshire and, right, when they all lived at home. Assembled in the same order: parents Joe and Norma with Joseph, Ann, Peter, the twins Helen and Diana, Julia, Richard, Katherine, David, Andrew and Paul

Diana, 39 (twin of Helen): lived in Australia for a year. Now manages a ceramics shop in Derbyshire. Married with two boys.

Julia, 38: Studied Italian and French at London University. Lived in Paris for two years before returning to England, where she married a Lord Wilson: lives in Buckinghamshire with their four children.

Richard, 37: became an estate agent and is now a developer

living in Great Shelford, near Cambridge. Lived in Italy for two years before returning with his wife, Elisabetta, and two children.

Katherine, 36: became a nurse and worked in Birmingham. Divorced her first husband, now married to a dental surgeon in Bedford, and has three children.

David, 34: an RAF flight lieutenant, due to go to America soon for further training. Served in the Gulf War, and

lives in Oxfordshire with his wife, Helen, and their twin daughters.

Andrew, 33: started out laying tracks for British Rail, now a businessman who travels the world and restores old Bentleys in his spare time. Lives near his parents in Melbourn with his wife, Debbie, and two children.

Paul, 31: freelance electrical contractor. Lives in Meldreth, near Cambridge, with his wife, Nicky, and two children.



## Child migrants screamed in loneliness, MPs told

A FORMER child migrant told MPs yesterday that he could still hear the screams of other "orphans" as they were plucked from children's homes in Britain and sent to repopulate Australia without their families' knowledge.

John Hennessey broke down in tears in front of the Commons Health Committee as he recalled his deportation to Australia and his childhood in the Christian Brothers orphanage in Perth. Mr Hennessey, 62, was ten when he was deported. He said: "As we got to Perth, we all stood in a line and brothers and sisters were separated straight away. I will never forget their screams."

He said that many children suffered severe mental and physical abuse involving public floggings at the hands of nuns and brothers. Once, driven by hunger, he stole grapes from a vineyard and, as punishment, had to strip naked in front of 50 other children to be flogged. "In my years there, I did not receive a single cuddle," he said.

At the age of 16, migrants were turned out of the orphanages with no money. Many were sent to work on farms, where abuse continued with near-starvation wages.

Many had been put in children's homes in Britain because their parents could

**Alexandra Frean sees witnesses weep for lost childhoods**

not cope with them. Frequently, they were told their parents were dead, while their families were led to believe that they had been adopted in Britain.

Once they were left to fend for themselves, they were unable to become Australian citizens because they had no birth certificates. "They just lied to us about our backgrounds. We had no idea that we might have family in Britain. We believed them because they were priests and brothers and nobody would have ever thought that they would lie."

Mr Hennessey called for a judicial inquiry to establish how such treatment could have been meted out to "British flesh and blood". The child-immigrant scheme was intended to bring "pure white stock" to former colonies, and ran from about 1850 to 1967. MPs are now seeking to establish what role the Gov-

ernment should play in seeking to assist those affected.

Matthew Dalton, 59, who was deported to Australia in 1947, was overcome with emotion as he told MPs how he managed to trace his mother, half-brother and half-sister in 1995. "When my mother tried to trace me after the war, they told her I was lost in the evacuation and she accepted it. Why wouldn't she believe me?"

Mr Dalton said that, while his mother looked for him in 1945, he was in the Sisters of Nazareth orphanage in Swansea and could have been found easily.

Norman Johnston, who was sent to Australia at the age of 7 in 1944, said he suffered 16 years of mistreatment at the hands of the Christian Brothers, which was systematically covered up by the authorities.

He called for more funding for the Child Migrants Trust, which helps former migrants to trace relatives in Britain and provides them with support and counselling.

"There is a need for the child-migrant population to have an acknowledgement from the British Government that this did happen, a recognition that mistakes have been made. This would go a long way towards the healing process," he said.

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Special Unsecured	17.00%	18.39%
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Standard Unsecured	22.25%	24.67%
Standard Secured	21.25%	23.45%
Gold Plus	12.25%	12.96%
Professional Trainee Loan Scheme (see page 10)		
8.00%		N/A
9.75%		10.20%
Graduate Overdraft	8.75%	N/A
Graduate Loan	8.75%	N/A
Advantage Premier Overdraft	10.25%	10.74%
Advantage Premier Loan	10.00%	N/A
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## Reliability of new cars slips down a gear

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of new cars developing faults has increased in the past year, according to research that accuses British manufacturers of being the worst offenders.

Three out of five cars under two years old proved unreliable, reversing a trend of increased reliability in recent years. The survey on reliability carried out by *Which?* Car magazine points to an increase in the number of complaints from owners of cars, many of which are still under warranty.

Andrew McIlwraith, the magazine's editor, said: "Although many of these would be fixed under warranty they still mean inconvenience and unscheduled trips to the garage." The latest figures compare with two in five cars that proved unreliable in last year's survey.

Japanese and Korean manufacturers are named as the best for reliability while Rover, Ford and Vauxhall remain near the bottom of the league.

The most reliable cars under two years old were: Daewoo, Honda, Mazda, Proton, Subaru and Toyota.

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# Millions face a huge drop in income after retirement

MILLIONS of working people — including those who consider themselves to be on comfortable salaries — were warned yesterday that they face a drop in income on retirement of more than 50 per cent.

The stark message, delivered in a report by an independent panel, came as the Government wrestled with the problem of how to create a stakeholder pension which will persuade people to save more for their old age.

A Green Paper is expected in the autumn and Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, who commissioned yesterday's report, said she was optimistic that the deadline would be met.

The study by the Pensions Review Group forecast that five million people could see their incomes fall by more than half on retirement because their pension provision was inadequate to support their standard of living.

Ms Harman welcomed the report as "authoritative" and said it was clear "many people in their 30s and 40s who are now working face a big drop in income on retirement".

The report identifies the most vulnerable people on retirement as the "low-paid and the no-paid", but says the one million employees not in company pension schemes and the 1.5 million self-employed people who do not have a

**Marianne Curphey and Alexandra Frean report on a stark message for workers and the Government**

personal pension will suffer too. Also at risk are carers, mainly women, whose careers have been interrupted by the need to stay at home and look after dependent children or elderly relatives.

An analysis of how the value of the basic state pension will decline over time as a percentage of men and women's average salaries has been carried out for *The Times* by Charles Levett-Scrivener, of the financial services group Towry Law. He calculates that in 1998 the state pension is worth 15.4 per cent of the average male weekly wage of £420, but that by 2050 this will have fallen to just under 8 per

cent of an average weekly wage of £3,868.

Tom Ross, the City pensions consultant who chaired the task force responsible for the report, said that unless people ensured that they had a second pension — on top of the basic state pension or Serps (state earnings related pensions scheme) — they were unlikely to be well-off in retirement. "People should know that on current policies their state pensions will represent very modest proportions of their likely earnings if they are going to retire in 30 or 40 years' time. If they don't know now, they can't do anything," he said. "Having a second

pension is not a guarantee that you will be well off in retirement, but it does seem to be a necessary condition."

The report also warned the gap between richer and poorer pensioners will increase if the system remains unchanged.

The Government is inviting debate from the financial services industry, unions, charities and other interested parties, over the stakeholder pension, which would be designed as a top-up to the basic state pension for those who are self-employed or in casualised employment.

Ms Harman said the stakeholder pension would provide a cheap and flexible way for people who do not have access to an occupational scheme to acquire a second pension. Because they will be run as collective schemes and will be subject to a simple benchmarking system, rather than complicated regulations, stakeholder pensions will be cheaper to buy into than personal pensions.

She said there were enormous psychological barriers to be overcome in persuading people to provide for their old age. "People know that the should be doing something about their pension but they are afraid of being ripped off

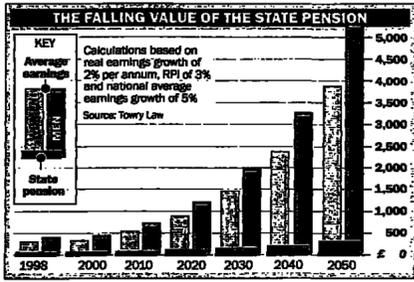
by the high charges imposed by pensions providers."

As part of the reforms Ms Harman said she wanted to enable women caring for dependent children and elderly relatives to be given credits to their stakeholder pensions during the time they are out of the workforce. One possibility might be to give mothers who take a career break to bring up their children up to three years' of pension credits paid at a flat rate.

Simon Burns, the Conservatives' social security spokesman, said: "The Government needs to declare whether the new pension will extend the level of compulsion, whether Serps will be abolished, and whether this Government will rule out means-testing the basic state pension."

Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern England, said that many older people were already struggling on low incomes. "The challenge for the Government is to ensure that all older people now, as well as in the future, have an adequate income to live on."

Next week Ms Harman will publish draft legislation on pension-sharing on divorce, where many women currently lose out. Research by Commercial Union has found that 55 per cent of women expect their partner to provide for them at retirement.



## Blair sets up team to listen to elderly

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE potential impact of "grey power" on future elections has prompted Tony Blair to call for an urgent new strategy for the elderly and the newly retired.

A team of 15 ministers chaired by John Denham, the junior Social Security Minister, has been set up to conduct an audit of everything the Government is already doing for older people. Mr Blair has told ministers they must listen to the wishes of older people and has offered the use of Downing Street for a pensioners' seminar later this month.

The policy rethink has been prompted by official forecasts that a quarter of the population will be of pensionable age by 2031. Private polling by the Cabinet Office also showed that many older people felt undervalued and that the Government seemed to ignore them.

The impetus in Whitehall became focused after the local government elections when the feedback from constituencies was that the Government

was not doing enough for the elderly.

A campaign to give older people a greater say in their public services and to emphasise the Government's commitment to action will be launched today. The actor Richard Wilson, Victor Meldrew, of the BBC's *One Foot in the Grave*, will team up with the former Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, to act as the public faces for the initiative.

In a message for the launch at Westminster today Mr Blair concedes that to date older people "have not been a high enough priority for government. I want that to change."

"We must end the shame of older people living out their last years neglected and alone." He also wants older people to speak up for themselves and to take on a higher profile in communities. "We need to value and celebrate older people for the experience they bring, and the active contribution they can make."

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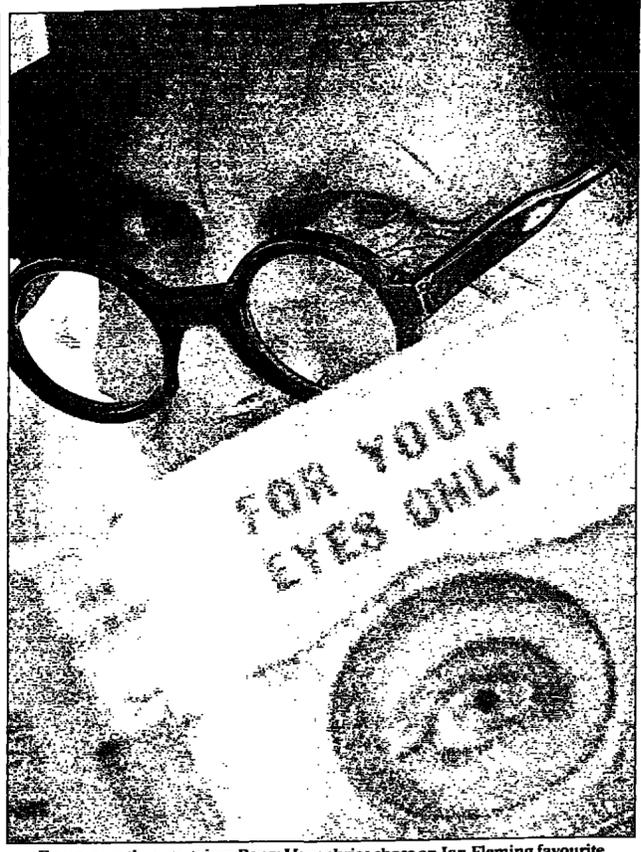
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Eye opener: the entertainer Barry Humphries chose an Ian Fleming favourite when he opened the Antiquarian Book Fair at Olympia, London, yesterday

Police held for killing

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



# Police will not be held for unlawful killing, says CPS

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH legal battle loomed yesterday over the death of a Nigerian asylum seeker after the Crown Prosecution Service reaffirmed its decision not to prosecute police officers.

Shiji Lapite, 45, died from a crushed larynx in December 1994 after being involved in a struggle with police in North London as they were arresting him. An inquest later returned a verdict of unlawful killing, but the CPS decided not to prosecute two constables.

Last year the Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills, faced with a judicial review, admitted there had been an error in law over the decision. She also accepted that a pathologist's evidence available at the time of the original CPS decision could not support the view that the death was accidental.

Now a new review by Dru Sharping, a top prosecutor at the CPS headquarters, has concluded there is insufficient evidence to prosecute any police officer in connection with the death of Mr Lapite.

The CPS said: "In the absence of evidence to show that the actions of the police officers either singly or in concert were a substantial cause of Mr Lapite's death, there is not a

realistic prospect of conviction against any police officer for manslaughter."

A spokeswoman said that the case had been re-examined by five medical experts involved in the original case, and they still agreed it was impossible to attribute death to any individual or act. She said no new experts had been consulted. The Police Complaints Authority said it would now consider whether disciplinary action should be taken against any officers.

The authority is waiting for a report from the Yard and will seek counsel's opinion on the weight of evidence for or



Dame Barbara: she admitted error of law

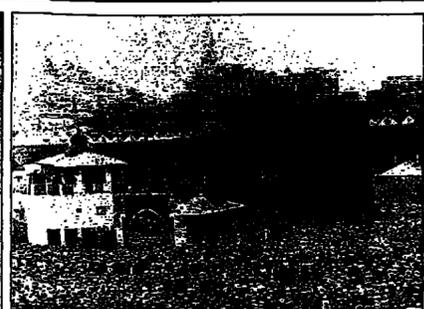
against disciplinary action. This may not be enough for Mr Lapite's family. Raju Bhatt, their lawyer, said: "A judicial review forced them to concede the decision was untenable and unjustifiable. It has now taken them a year to try and find excuses not to prosecute once again. The decision by the CPS begs some questions. The burden is once again on the family to bring these officers to answer. All avenues will be considered." Mr Bhatt refused to say what course the family might take. They could start a private prosecution or sue for damages for the loss of Mr Lapite.

The case was one of three last year which caused considerable embarrassment and raised questions over Dame Barbara's future. She is retiring early.

One case has been reviewed and led to three officers being charged with manslaughter over the death of Richard O'Brien, who died in South London from asphyxia. In February, the CPS stood by its decision not to prosecute West Midlands officers over the alleged torture of Derek Treadaway. Mr Treadaway had been given £50,000 in a civil action.



The keeper of the mosque at Medina and his servants pose for the camera



The Kaaba at Mecca during prayers

## Images of holy cities fetch £1.3m

By JOHN SHAW

A SET of the first photographs taken of Mecca and Medina, the holiest cities in Islam, was sold for £1,376,500 at Sotheby's in London yesterday. The price paid by the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London was more than ten times the estimate.

Only three sets of the 18 photographs, taken by Sadiq Bey in 1881, are known. Another is in private hands and the third is in the Institut de France in Paris. They show 13 views of the cities and their subjects by an award-winning pioneer of Arabian photography and exploration.

Those of Mecca include a view of the court of the Great Mosque and Kaaba (chief sanctuary of Islam) during

prayers, the Safa gate, the Mualia Cemetery and the Hajj encampment during the feast of the sacrifices at Munah. Those of Medina include a view from the north into the mosque of the prophet and other scenes.

Sadiq Bey, a military engineer, was born in Egypt in 1832. His pictures won a gold medal at the Venice exhibition of 1881. He died in 1902.

The photographs were sold with two rare itineraries of his journeys to the holy cities. They contain the first description and accurate plan of the area around the Mosque of the Prophet, plus a detailed description of a route to Medina. The 400-mile journey by camel caravan took just over a month.

## Priest wins cut in abuse sentence

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A JESUIT priest who sexually abused boys at a leading Roman Catholic independent school had two years removed from a five-year prison sentence yesterday when the Court of Appeal quashed his conviction on some of the charges against him.

The three judges ruled that the jury that convicted Father James Channing-Pearce had not been adequately directed by the trial judge on whether a 16-year-old pupil at Stonyhurst School, near Preston, Lancashire, had consented to sex. Last September, at Preston Crown Court, the priest admitted indecently assaulting three boys. He denied four counts of molesting the 16-year-old.

Channing-Pearce's defence was that he never touched the 16-year-old indecently. The issue of consent was never raised before the jury. The former pupil, who was 21 at the time of the trial, did not say in evidence whether he agreed or objected.

## Fog clears detective in drink case

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A POLICEMAN was cleared of drink-driving yesterday after he said he was forced to take the wheel because his girlfriend had "freaked out" in thick fog on a motorway.

Detective Constable Lee Hughes, of Bracknell, Berkshire, was found to be twice the legal alcohol limit when he pulled into a service station between Perth and Edinburgh after attending a friend's wedding last October.

Sheriff Sandy Eccles accepted his plea of not guilty at Perth Sheriff Court and agreed that he had been compelled to take the wheel because of "extraordinary" circumstances.

The judgment was immediately condemned as "bizarre" by road safety campaigners who claimed it would open the floodgates for others. Mr Hughes, 29, and his girlfriend, Rebecca Burgess, 27, a journalist, were in the car after being thrown out of their hotel for rowdiness at lam after a wedding reception in Dunkeld, Perthshire.

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# Bristol deaths highlight lack of medical data

DOCTORS have no idea whether they are good or bad at their job and need a nationwide audit of their performance to find out, their leaders agreed yesterday.

"We simply do not know and cannot compare our work with our peers," Jim Johnson, chairman of the British Medical Association's consultants and specialists committee, told 200 of his most senior colleagues at their annual meeting.

"People find it astonishing that we don't have this data. There has to be a huge effort on the part of the doctors, the profession and the NHS as a whole, and the Government has to pay for it."

Mr Johnson, a vascular surgeon who is president of the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges, said the present system of self-regulation of the profession was no longer acceptable. Problems of quality control, highlighted by the case of the Bristol heart surgeons, needed to be addressed. Two surgeons and an NHS trust manager face being struck off the medical register

**Doctors want clinical yardstick to measure their performance, reports Ian Murray**

after an inquiry by the General Medical Council found they ignored warnings that too many of the babies died after the operations they were performing at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

"Inevitably, public confidence has been dented by the case and people are concerned about whether the treatment they are getting is up to scratch," Mr Johnson said.

"We need a system of self-governance in local hospitals that steps in before things go wrong. We need proper risk management strategies for recording things that go wrong or near-misses so that hospi-

als can analyse this in a systematic way and make sure they don't happen again."

Every Royal College and specialist organisation is currently collating data so that national averages can be published. Mr Johnson said there was remarkably little data for the range of likely results for any of the medical procedures right across the health service.

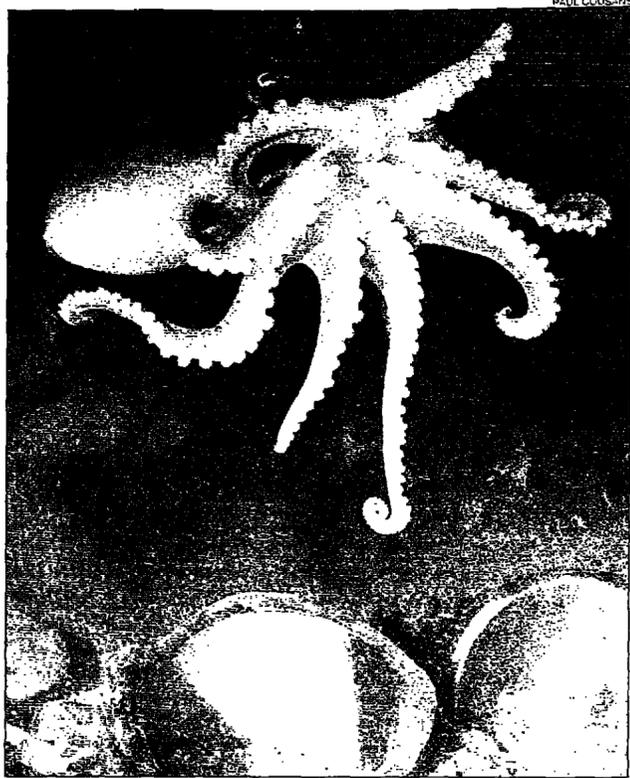
"Surgeons don't know if they are good or bad. An individual surgeon can work out how many patients die within 30 days of an operation but there is nothing to compare it with. And if you have nothing to compare it with, it means nothing."

Those doctors with results which fall short of these norms would need to take urgent action to improve the results. Where the outcome was an unacceptable mortality, for instance, it might be necessary for the clinician concerned together with the clinical and medical directors to decide to stop performing the procedure until corrective action could be taken.

He was strongly opposed to any idea of an individual league table of doctors, however. What was needed was an audit which showed for each procedure what the outcome ought to be. Surgeons could then compare their own results with these figures and see whether or not they were performing well.

Mr Johnson felt that a better system would be to find out by audit what the average figures were for each procedure so doctors could tell if their performance fell inside acceptable limits. The hospital also be able to spot doctors who were underperforming. The system would also reveal which doctors had especially good results so their expertise could help others.

Government plans to inspect each hospital every three or four years were "a knee-jerk reaction" to the Bristol case, Mr Johnson said. The role of the Commission for Health Improvement, which is due to be set up next year, would be to see that standards were adhered to.



A lesser octopus found in the Mersey: regeneration will cost about £4 billion

# Mersey clean-up greets visitors with open arms

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Mersey Estuary, once Europe's most polluted river basin, is beginning to attract more exotic sea life. Anglers are regularly catching sea trout while fishing off the pontoons in the bay, seals at the mouth of the Dee are venturing further afield and octopus have been spotted idling in the rock pools.

Almost halfway into the 25-year Mersey Basin Campaign, launched to regenerate the damaged river system, the basin is becoming an hospitable environment for at least 35 species of marine, estuarine and migratory fish. Species spotted swimming through the narrow entrance from Liverpool Bay include cuttle-

fish, squid, lumpfish, garfish, horse mackerel, pipefish and anchovy.

The £4 billion Mersey Basin Campaign was launched by the Government in 1985, bringing together local authorities, businesses and statutory bodies such as North West Water and the Environment Agency. The estuary was traditionally home to a number of polluting industries, crude sewage was poured directly into its waters, and tanker captains sluiced their oil tanks before sailing into the bay.

There has been a continuing fall in the levels of industrial effluent and, say campaigners, there will be no raw sewage

reaching the estuary by 2000. The campaign is now launching a Mersey Action programme which will signal a move away from simply tackling the root-cause pollution towards making the most of the estuary's natural attractions. Liverpool City Council is inviting the public to attend the Mers-eco '98 exhibition at Otterspool Promenade this weekend, to celebrate the importance of the estuary.

Louise Hopkins, Mersey Estuary clean-up co-ordinator, said: "We want to make the public proud of their estuary again. The number of fish species has increased. Anglers are saying they are catching sea trout."

# Mountain tests allow scientists to put weight on the neutrino

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN INCREDIBLY sensitive instrument buried 2,000ft under a Japanese mountain has found evidence that an elusive particle may account for most of the universe's mass.

Physicists announced today at a conference in Japan that they believe neutrinos, ghostly particles hitherto believed to be without mass, do weigh something after all. Since the universe is suffused with neutrinos in vast numbers, this means that they must make up a large part of the "missing mass" believed to be present in the universe but invisible to the eye.

The new data support claims made a year ago by a team based in a mine in Minnesota that neutrinos have mass. The findings have implications both for cosmology, and for understanding the basic structure of matter.

Neutrinos were produced in the Big Bang which began the Universe, and are emitted by the Sun and all other stars. Theory says they should be a billion times more common than the particles that make up atoms.

They pass unnoticed through the Earth, and through our bodies, all the time, which makes them very hard to detect. The new results come from the first two years of data from Super-Kamiokande, a \$100 million (£62.5 million) experiment in a cavity under Mount Ikeno near Kamioka in the Japanese Alps. The detector is a million-gallon tank of water.

The idea is to detect the occasional impact between a neutrino and an electron. As the impacts occur, the electrons are driven forward and emit light, which is picked up by 3,000 light detectors. The instruments are buried down an old zinc mine so that more prosaic particles cannot penetrate and confuse the results.

The claim, made at the Neutrino '98 conference in Takayama, is that neutrinos, which come in three different kinds, can "oscillate" — change from one kind to another — as they fly through

space. The team, which includes scientists from six US groups and from the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research in Tokyo, has studied neutrinos produced in the atmosphere by the impact of cosmic rays. They have found fewer than expected muon neutrinos coming from great distances, and this deficit indicates that muon neutrinos disappear and reappear as they travel through the Earth.

This in turn implies that they must have mass, since massless particles cannot change their form. The actual mass calculated is the smallest yet observed for any elementary particle, but is still large enough that the neutrinos



Dr Learned: evidence for mass of universe

made in staggering numbers at the time of the Big Bang could account for much of the total mass of the universe.

There are believed to be 500 million such neutrinos in every cubic metre of space. That means a mass for the neutrino of even one millionth that of the electron — the figure suggested by the earlier experiments — would be sufficient to make the total mass of neutrinos a significant, and perhaps a major, part of the total matter in the universe.

"Neutrinos cannot now be neglected in the bookkeeping of the mass of the universe. One only gets such great data once or twice in a professional lifetime, maybe never" said Professor John Learned of the University of Hawaii, one of the team responsible.

# Team on standby to raise standards

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A RAPID response group comprising a senior cardiac surgeon and a council member of the Royal College of Surgeons is on 48-hour standby to go into any hospital where heart operations are believed to be below standard.

The initiative is part of an attempt by the profession to protect patients and restore public confidence after the case of the Bristol heart surgeons.

Writing in today's issue of the *British Medical Journal*, Tom Treasure, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at St George's Hospital, London, says he is not sure that the initiative will work, but if

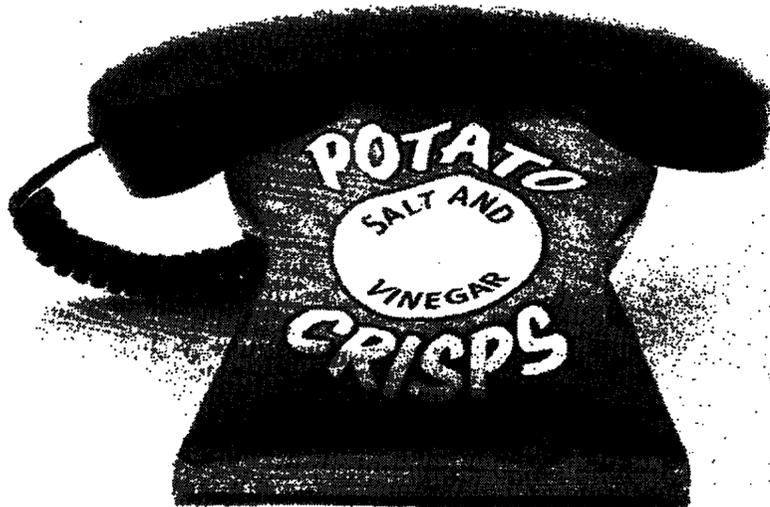
surgeons fail to adopt a system to put their house in order "there is little doubt it will be imposed upon us".

A major issue of the Bristol case, he says, was the over-optimistic information given to parents.

"There may be a place for giving an optimistic outlook to a patient judged to have no choice but to undergo high risk emergency to save a life, but the circumstances where that approach is justified are limited."

"There was no justification for the rosy glow in this case, where the operations were elective, could be performed elsewhere and the difference between success or failure was potentially many years of life."

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# Fans draw up 8,000-mile game plan

Adrian Lee meets two friends ready for a World Cup extravaganza

TWO football fanatics are preparing to embark on a World Cup odyssey during which they will attend at least one game on every match day of the tournament.

Simon Eedle and Trevor Miles have secured tickets for 28 fixtures, will see all England's games and cover more than 8,000 miles in aircraft, trains and a car.

The extravaganza will cost the pair, from Reading, Berkshire, at least £10,000 each. The tickets, including seats for the final, the third place play-off and both semi-finals, have cost them £6,000 each.

"I know people will say we are mad, but it is something I have always wanted to do," said Mr Eedle, 37, a manager in a City trading room. "France is so close and it will be the experience of a lifetime."

The pair, both Reading supporters, met on the terraces 25 years ago and have been planning the epic trip for more than a year. Their itinerary begins with the opening match between Scotland and Brazil in Paris on June 10, at the Saint-Denis stadium, and ends on July 12 at the same venue with the final.

On June 12 they will watch two matches, in Montpellier and Marseilles. They will even squeeze in three days back home, on World Cup rest days, before travelling back to France for more football.

Mr Eedle, a father of two, said his wife, Julie, was far from impressed. "She hates football - she is only letting me go because it means she

DATE	TIME	FEATURE	LOCATION	MILES	PRICE £	
10	17.30	Brazil v Scotland	Paris	181	315	
11	21.00	Cameron v Austria	Toulouse	435	110	
12	14.30	Paraguay v Bulgaria	Montpellier	181	120	
12	21.00	France v South Africa	Marseilles	78	140	
13	17.30	South Korea v Mexico	Lyons	196	120	
14	17.30	Yugoslavia v Iran	St Etienne	39	110	
15	14.30	England v Tunisia	Marseilles	191	185	
16	17.30	Scotland v Norway	Bordeaux	408	175	
17	21.00	Italy v Cameroon	Montpellier	335	130	
18	17.30	South Africa v Denmark	Toulouse	181	150	
19	21.00	Spain v Paraguay	St Etienne	271	130	
20	21.00	Holland v South Korea	Marseilles	191	130	
21	22.00	United States v Iran	Lyons	196	125	
22	21.00	Romania v England	Toulouse	335	185	
23	21.00	Scotland v Morocco	St Etienne	271	150	
24	18.00	France v Denmark	Lyons	39	225	
25	18.00	Belgium v South Korea	Paris	287	110	
26	21.00	Colombia v England	Lens	138	250	
27	21.00	Last 16	Paris	138	225	
28	21.00	Last 16	Paris	0	225	
29	21.00	Last 16	Toulouse	134	225	
30	16.30	Last 16 (England if win group)	Bordeaux	155	225	
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,250</b>

Driving  Plane  Train

won't have to watch endless football on television."

He follows Reading, who were relegated to the Second Division last season, home and away. "I have seen so much bad football that you could say I deserve this," he

and Mr Miles, 40, a rail clerk, bought their tickets through a London agency. They stipulated that they should visit every stadium at least once and see as many teams as possible.

For the first round matches, they will drive between ven-

ues, clocking up 5,733 miles in Mr Eedle's Mercedes. His French-speaking secretary, Suzanne Rowbotham, arranged accommodation.

Mr Miles, who is single and paid for his trip using a shares windfall, said: "I have never done anything like this before and I will probably never do it again. I am going because I love football and it will be a fantastic occasion. I don't think it is possible to see any more games without chartering a helicopter."

Depending on results in the first stage, the pair will see all but three or four of the 32 competing teams. Sharing the driving and sharing rooms, they expect to remain friends, although they disagree on one thing. "I love French cuisine, but Simon is not keen," said Mr Miles.

Mr Eedle, who saw more than half the games in Euro 96, held in England, said that he intended to survive on lager and hamburgers.

Mrs Eedle said she was looking forward to a World Cup-free summer. "I don't begrudge Simon going - he loves football and this will be like a dream come true for both of them."

Earlier this year her husband took her to New York by Concorde to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. Well, not quite the anniversary - that falls on June 20 when Mr Eedle will be watching Holland against South Korea in Marseilles.

Philip Howard, page 24  
Sport, pages 47-54



Simon Eedle with some of his tickets. He and Trevor Miles plan to see 28 games

## Student flies out to find a new goal

By A CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT from Hampshire may have a footballing future in South America, after writing to ask for a game. Andy Reading, 18, a local-league goalkeeper, was invited for a trial with Guyana and won a place in its World Youth Cup team.

The social welfare student from Fareham had the idea because his mother is from Guyana. He said: "I was very surprised when they wrote back asking me to come out for a week's trial." The Guyana FA paid for his food and accommodation, and he raised the £1,000 air fare with help from sports and social clubs.

His first game was for the youth team against Guyana's full national side. He said: "I think we were expected to lose by double figures, but we only lost 3-1 in the end." After a number of friendlies, he is on a month's notice for future games, with his flights paid.

Mr Reading, who plays for BAT in the Jewson Wessex League, said: "The youth standard was the best of its kind I had played in anywhere." His mother, Savita, 52, said: "It seems amazing he's playing for Guyana. I'm very proud of him."

## Couch potatoes will put themselves in injury time

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN EPIDEMIC of World Cup injuries could leave England and Scotland flat on their backs, sports physiotherapists said yesterday. But their concern is less for the nations' footballers than for the fans.

With BBC and ITV planning to screen up to 180 hours of football, viewers may suffer a summer of self-inflicted pain if they insist on lolling on sofas. Stand up for football, the physiotherapists advise, or at least sit in a hard-backed chair.

Peter Evans, a chartered sports physiotherapist from Wolverhampton, said: "Back pain is one of Britain's biggest health problems, affecting more than half of the population, and sitting is a big factor in how much pain people have. Most sitting-room settees encourage poor posture and back pain."

"It is unlikely to leave people with permanent problems, but it might well cause up to two or three weeks of discomfort. I would expect as many as 5 per cent of viewers to be affected." A core audience of 16 million is expected to follow the World Cup closely on television, so those affected could run into six figures.

Mr Evans said: "Avid supporters who lean forward with their forearms on their knees, encouraging their



Parents have been warned that children wearing replica England shirts this summer could be at risk of sunburn. A report yesterday in the medical journal *The Lancet* says the Umbro shirts offer no more protection than a factor five to ten sunscreen. Andrew Wright, a skin specialist from Brad-

ford Royal Infirmary, led the team that made the discovery. Dr Wright, pictured right with Graham Hart, chief of radiation physics, said yesterday: "There is a serious message here. You've got to be very careful that the clothing you wear is offering enough protection."

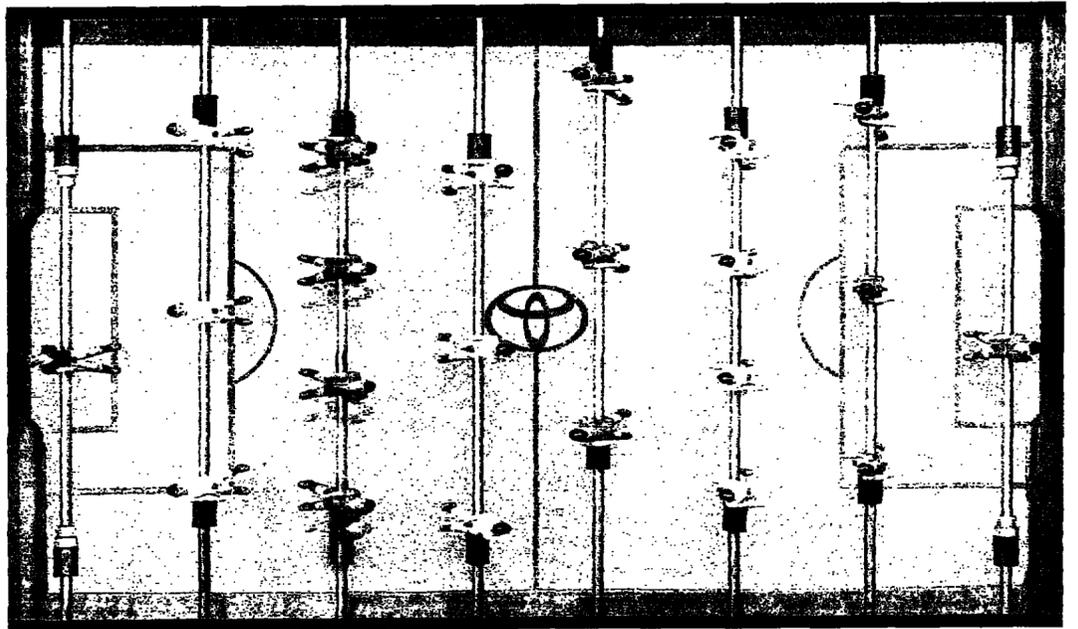
teams, make matters worse, because their backs are bent double.

"Lying on the sofa puts you in exactly the position where you are most at risk, because the tendency is to lie in a banana shape, with your head supported by one arm of the sofa, your feet by the other, and nothing supporting your

back at all. Sitting on a dining chair is much better.

"People standing up to watch a big screen in a pub will have no problems. However you sit, you should not stay in the same position for longer than 40 minutes or an hour without getting up, stretching and moving around."

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# Terrorist release plan tests Blair's pledges

THE Government publishes legislation today permitting the early release of terrorist prisoners. It will be critical in determining the outcome of the elections to Northern Ireland's new assembly.

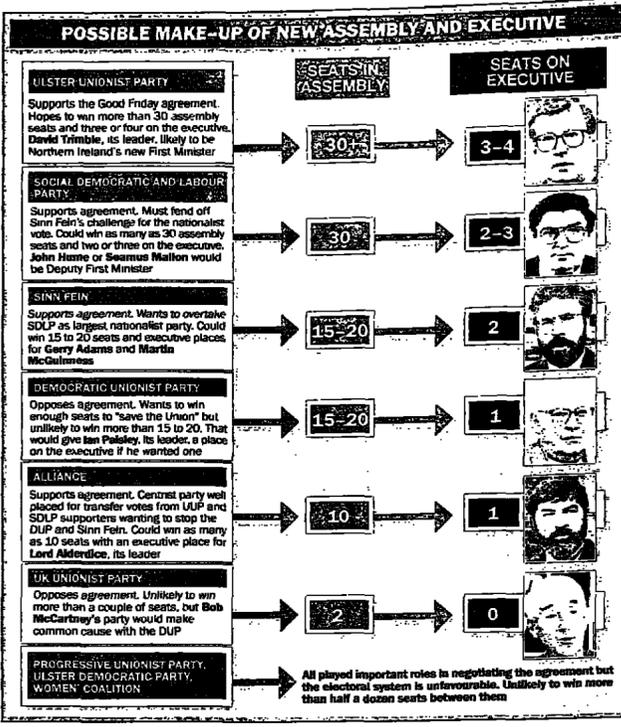
After a ministerial briefing on the Bill, the peace accord's Unionist opponents claimed yesterday that it would drive thousands of voters into their camp by failing to fulfil Tony Blair's pre-referendum pledge to link the releases to progress on IRA disarmament and other tests of Sinn Féin's commitment to non-violence. "There is nothing worse than an angry electorate that feels deceived and betrayed," said Ian Paisley Jnr, the Democratic Unionist Party's justice spokesman. If the DUP and its allies won half the roughly 60 seats Unionists are expected to win on June 25, they could block the North-South ministerial council rendering the assembly unworkable. Sources close to David Trimble, the pro-agreement Ulster Unionist Party leader, expressed complete confidence that Mr Blair's pledge would

## Martin Fletcher previews a vital day for Ulster's peace accord in the countdown to assembly elections

be incorporated into the Bill and accused the DUP of political scaremongering. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, showed how seriously she is taking the matter by taking the unprecedented step of briefing the Shadow Cabinet's Northern Ireland Committee this week to try to keep the Tories on board. Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said he was pleased that decommissioning featured in the Bill but withheld judgment until he had studied the legislation in detail. It is essential that "the Prime Minister's assurances which influenced a large number of people to vote Yes are properly incorporated", he said. A total of 296 candidates are standing under 29 different labels for the assembly's 108 seats, but it is the battle

between the rival Unionist camps that matters. Ironically, safeguards designed to protect nationalists from an anti-Unionist majority give anti-agreement Unionists their chance of undermining the assembly from within. The safeguards say that "key" decisions require substantial support from both traditions, meaning 30 seats would give the Paisleyites an effective veto. Thirty is the number of members required to have a decision designated "key". Exit polls suggested that Protestant voters had been split narrowly in favour of the agreement in last month's referendum, but the Paisleyites claim that the UUP could never again turn out so many new voters, or receive so much outside help from the likes of Mr Blair, President Clinton and the rock star

Bono. Moreover, electoral law would force the media to be more balanced. But the referendum's overwhelming endorsement of the accord has given the UUP a moral advantage and greater unity than expected. Of its 48 candidates, who include two Roman Catholics, only half a dozen opposed the agreement. Officials believe that just one could vote with the Paisleyites in the assembly. None of the dissident UUP MPs who sided with Dr Paisley is standing. Under the single transferable vote system, UUP candidates should also receive invaluable support from centrist and nationalist voters wanting to exclude the Paisleyites. If the opponents did win 30 seats, it is possible that the centrist Alliance Party would save the day by designating its assemblymen Unionists. The campaign's sub-plot is Sinn Féin's bid to replace the SDLP as the biggest nationalist party. Polls show that John Hume's SDLP received most credit for the Good Friday agreement.



## Posturing politicians must learn to deal with facts

By Our Chief IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland's own government, the first for a quarter of a century, may prove quite a shock for its politicians. Only three have held office in anything more than a local council. John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist Party's deputy leader, served in the Stormont Government that was replaced by direct rule in 1972. John Hume, the SDLP leader, and Eddie McGrady, an SDLP MP, were members of the short-lived Sunningdale power-sharing executive of 1974. The rest have spent their careers in opposition, where it is easy to stand on principle and compromise is seldom necessary. They have never had to draw up budgets or make tough policy decisions. They have won elections by virtue of being — or not being — Unionists or nationalists, and the average voter would have no idea of where the parties stand on social or economic issues.

## THE VOTING

VOTERS in the assembly elections will require a high level of political sophistication. They will be asked to back as many candidates as they want in order of preference. In the Strangford constituency they will have a choice of 22. The 108-member assembly is to be elected by the single transferable vote system of proportional representation, with six members from each of the Province's 18 parliamentary constituencies. Candidates who win a seventh of the total vote on the first count are automatically elected. Their votes above that quota are redistributed according to a complex mathematical formula to the second preferences of those who supported them. When that process is exhausted, candidates with least support are eliminated in turn and their votes redistributed until six others have reached the threshold, or only six remain.

The assembly will have full legislative and executive authority in areas presently administered by the six Northern Ireland government departments: agriculture, economic development, education, environment, finance, and health and social security. Important decisions must command substantial cross-community support. The assembly will meet in shadow form from July, and one of its first decisions will be to elect a First Minister and Deputy First Minister of different traditions. The former will almost certainly be David Trimble, the UUP leader, and the latter John Hume. By October 31, the shadow assembly must have agreed, through a shadow North-South ministerial council, 12 areas of cross-border co-operation including six that will require new all-Ireland agencies. Power will be transferred to the assembly and the council early next year.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 5 1998

Journals watchdog research

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## Journals want watchdog on research fraud

BY IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

### WORK IN DOUBT

EDITORS of leading medical journals called yesterday for a national research watchdog with hit squads able to raid laboratories to unearth fraud. The journals have discovered widespread examples of unethical, fraudulent or stolen research papers submitted for publication over the past year.

"We need a national body with very big and sharp teeth," said Michael Farthing, chairman of the Committee on Publication Ethics (Cope), set up a year ago to investigate the scale of the problem. "It must have the power to investigate without warning. We must have hit squads able to go in and demand to see the patients and data that are supposed to have been drawn up for the research paper."

At present, the discovery of fraud was too hit-and-miss. A case of plagiarism had been discovered only because a paper happened to be sent to review to someone who recognised that it contained word-for-word extracts from two papers he had written himself.

Professor Farthing, editor of the specialist journal *Gut*, said: "Some people are fraudsters because they want to boost their CV. Some do it because they believe something to be true and they will do anything to get that view across."

"They may interview one or two people who support their point of view and then make the rest up. There is a sort of madness in some of these people."

Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, said there were fraudsters in every sphere of life. There was no reason why medicine should be any different, even though in the past no one would have dared to think such a thing of

The *British Medical Journal* today issues a retraction of an article it published in 1993 because one of its authors has been struck off the medical register for research fraud. The other author, Cameron Bowie, Emeritus Director of Public Health, Somerset, writes in the publication today that he believed it was a good paper about people with severe physical handicap, but he was unable to vouch for the data. "It has been an unedifying experience, putting my own scientific credentials into question," he writes.

the profession. "If you are an academic, you have to publish papers if you want to make any progress in your career. If you don't publish, you get nowhere. That is a pressure some people cannot resist." Since Cope was set up last July, it has discovered 27 cases of fraud from among papers submitted to ten journals. "That is one a fortnight from just ten among 20,000 biomedical journals in the world," Dr Smith said.

"Millions of articles are published every year. Nobody should argue that the bulk of published material is badly based and that people invent the data. The fact is, though, that the whole of the system operates on trust."

The medical editors want a statutory body to cover all research papers, including science and the humanities, and more protection for "whistle-blowers" who expose fraud.

Ideas for the national body are still being discussed. It could report directly to a minister, or have disciplinary powers, or advise local authorities.

## Dealing with a question of ethics

THE cases reviewed by Cope include duplicates of work already published in other journals. Some genuine research papers are duplicated and sent in slightly different form to different journals in an attempt to get them both published.

One paper was a study based on a non-licensed drug that is supplied only in limited amounts by its manufacturer. The editor found that the researcher had either not had access to the drug or had been using it after it was withdrawn.

One of the cases of unethical research identified by Cope involved a study of kidney

transplants supplied abroad by living donors. The editor of the journal to whom it was sent tried to find out if the kidneys had been donated voluntarily or whether they were supplied by prisoners or executed prisoners, or by groups of people who could not give informed consent for their donation. The paper was rejected.

One paper sent in by a GP described how patients with high cholesterol had been taken off their medication. He reported the GP to the General Medical Council only to find that the doctor had already been struck off the register for professional misconduct.



Keri de Souza fought to change visiting rules: "I did it in John's memory"

## Banned visitor forces change in hospital rules

BY PAUL WILKINSON

HOSPITALS across the country are to change their visiting rules after a woman was banned from her dying boyfriend's bedside.

Keri de Souza was stopped from visiting John Nelson for the last two days of his life at the request of his relatives. When he died only a month after being told he had stomach cancer, she was not at his side.

But now, after she campaigned for more than two years, the Government is recommending patients should be asked on admission which visitors they want.

Miss de Souza, 35, said yesterday she was delighted. "No one should have to endure the sheer misery I suffered over John's death. They were the worst days of my life but now I have what I wanted: the genuine wishes of patients to be heard. I did this in John's memory."

She had known Mr Nelson, 57, a Durham primary teacher who taught Tony Blair when he was at Durham Choristers School, for almost a year when he was told he had a month to live. She visited him daily in Dryburn Hospital in Durham until he slipped into a coma



Nelson: slipped into coma before he died

John's family. Their reaction was perhaps understandable. Their mother had died eight years previously from bone cancer and they were seeing a similar thing happening to their father. Although it was hard for me, I could see why they didn't want me to be there at the same time as them. "What I objected to was the way that the hospital took the decision to exclude me without any further consideration."

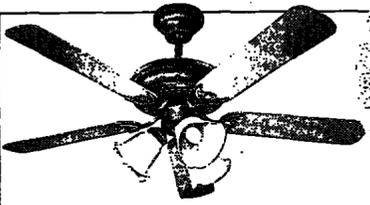
She wrote to the hospital which agreed to change its policy, then she contacted the Royal College of Nursing, the bereavement service Cruse, the Durham Community Health Trust, Gerry Steinberg, the Labour MP for Durham City, and Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary.

This week Baroness Jay of Paddington, a junior Health Minister, replied that she was asking her officials to publicise what the Durham hospital was doing as "good practice" for others to follow. A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said: "It is a simple solution that could avoid complications. It is a question of asking the patient 'Who do you want to see?' and for that person to nominate people and for the person's wishes to be followed."

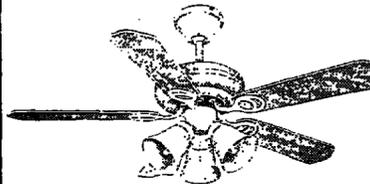
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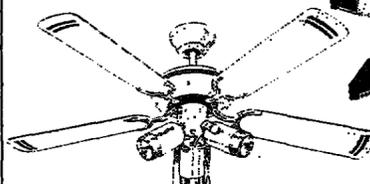
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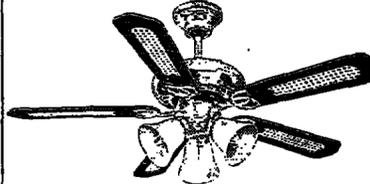
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# MPs say child benefit should be stopped at 16

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

CHILD benefit should be scrapped for 16 to 19 year olds and replaced by cash handouts of up to £38 a week for those still in education, a Commons committee says.

The all-party Commons Education Select Committee recommends that the universal weekly payments of up to £11.45 to mothers for children aged 16 to 19 should end. All teenagers over 15 in full-time education would be eligible for means-tested payments.

Any child whose parents earned more than £35,000 would not qualify but all other youngsters, in private or state schools or further education colleges, would stand to gain up to £2,000 a year.

The unanimous report will heighten debate over child benefit, which is part of the comprehensive spending review. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have signalled that they intend to tax the benefit for higher earners but the Chancellor is keen on abolishing it for 16 to 19 year olds.

The Prime Minister is wary of any policy which would

alienate middle-class voters, but Labour's general election manifesto provides the necessary loophole to allow both taxation and changes for the post-16 benefit.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, is still pushing for any savings to be used to persuade young people to stay at school. Before the election he is said to have supported the idea of cash handouts of up to £20 for youngsters.

But the idea was opposed by the Treasury which argued that there would be nothing to stop the money being spent on cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. Whitehall sources said yesterday that incentives to encourage teenagers to stay at school were being actively studied by Mr Blunkett and Mr Brown. An education spokesman said: "There is much in the committee's report that we welcome."

The committee, chaired by Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, suggests that the full cost of the scheme would be about £2 billion, nearly half of which would be in the form of grants. It says that

£600 million would be released by abolishing child benefit for older children and a further £300 million switched from money spent by local education authorities on student support.

The remaining £1.1 billion would be provided through a system of loans similar to the tuition fee scheme for universities. There are now about 1.2 million 16 to 19 year olds in full-time education.

The committee also argues that a further £500 million should be allocated by the Government over the next four years — with a minimum of £220 million — to further education colleges to ensure their survival. Mr Blunkett is said to be pressing for at least £10 billion extra for the next three years.

Yesterday Mrs Hodge said that student support needed to be improved to widen participation in further education. Grants "would be paid to students rather than their parents. They would give young people a real incentive to continue to learn."



Tony Newton with hat in 1993: the rule requiring MPs to wear it is to be abolished

## Electronic voting is rejected

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

MPs have rejected an electronic voting system in the Commons to replace their traditional walk-through "Aye" and "No" division lobbies. The modernisation committee announced yesterday that it had abandoned the

idea of a change after a survey of MPs found that 53 per cent preferred the status quo.

No other method of voting was deemed acceptable by more than 50 per cent of the 419 MPs who took part. Among the options that failed to win majority backing were smartcards, fingerprint readers, touch screens and infra-

red handsets. Some new members who were originally attracted by the idea of electronic voting are known to have been swayed by their experience in the lobbies, where they have a regular opportunity to meet ministers.

Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, admitted that she was surprised. "Some new members now feel more comfortable with existing procedures because they see the advantages as well as the disadvantages."

The House was last night expected to approve a series of changes to debating procedures, including the abolition of the rule that requires an MP to don a hat to raise a point of order during a vote.

Opening the debate, Mrs Taylor said some MPs might feel that they looked "particularly fetching" in the opera hats that were used. But she said: "It really does make the House of Commons look particularly ridiculous."

Mrs Taylor suggested that one of the two hats should go into the Commons archive while the other might be sold for charity. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolton) shouted: "Put it in the Dome."

A member will also no longer be able to shout "I spy strangers" in order to clear the public galleries and disrupt business, but will instead have to suggest "that the House sit in private".

## Rifkind puts on tartan to rally Scottish Tories

By Shirley English

SCOTTISH Tories will today seek to distance themselves from their English roots in readiness for next year's elections to the new parliament. With no MPs or Tory councils, the organisation has undergone what Sir Malcolm Rifkind, party President and former Foreign Secretary, calls a "velvet revolution". Scotland's oldest political party has effectively become its youngest, he claims, reborn with an exceptional degree of freedom to choose its own leaders, structures and policies.

In his address to conference today, Sir Malcolm plans to appeal to the romanticism usually associated with the nationalist cause, to emphasise the importance of the Union. "It would be terribly depressing and a source of widespread gloom, if the only area of Europe where we have a Union broke apart. There is a fundamental difference between patriotism and nationalism. Patriotism is a positive force based on a love of one's country. It does not require any enemies. In contrast, nationalism thrives on producing scapegoats and seeking to blame others," he will say.

Sir Malcolm, who lost his Edinburgh Pentlands seat in last year's general election, but whose ambitions still lie at

Westminster rather than Holyrood, believes there is a significant role for a moderate, progressive, centre-right party committed to the Union, to challenge Labour in Scotland.

"What has happened since the election, is a new consensus in favour of devolution, and we are part of it and the Nationalists are outside it."

Although polls have shown support falling from 18 per cent at the election to 11 per cent now, Sir Malcolm believes that figure could reach 30 per cent in time, as the Liberal Democrats become "more left wing than Labour" and the Scots middle classes, rural and business communities, have their trust restored.

More open and accountable structures are already in place under reforms drawn up by Lord Strathclyde, a former Scottish Office minister. They allow the Scots not only to choose their own leader and Scottish parliamentary candidates, but also to have a say with William Hague in the choice of party chairman.

The focus will now fall on developing policies which will give the party a Scottish flavour on devolved matters such as agriculture, education, health and transport, and which will not require endorsement from London.

## Councils told to clean up finances

SCOTTISH councils have been given their sternest warning yet to clean up their finances or face losing substantial powers to the Government (Gillian Harris writes).

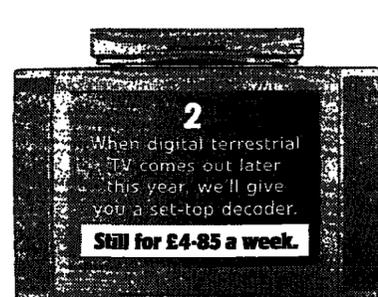
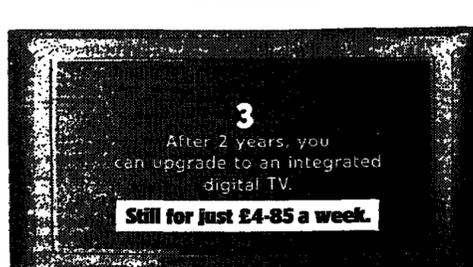
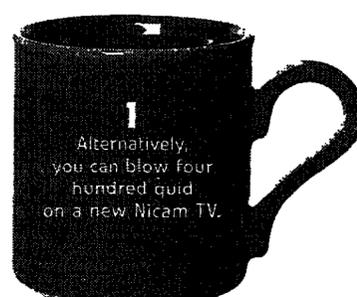
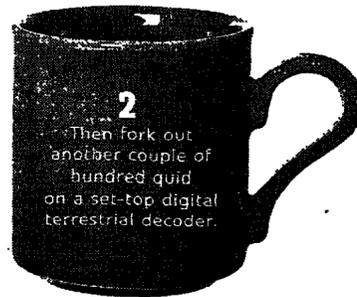
Calum MacDonald, the Scottish Office local government minister, yesterday told leaders of direct labour organisations (DLO) that the Government was prepared to take action against councils which fail to provide efficient services. The warning came as two more Scottish councils admitted that their DLO budgets, Labour-controlled East Dunbartonshire has a shortfall of £500,000 while Argyll and Bute, an independ-

ent council, is projecting a financial deficit thought to be around £250,000.

Earlier this week North Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire councils, both run by Labour, were found to have deficits of £4.8 million and £2.9 million. In North Lanarkshire an auditor uncovered examples of workmen earning up to five times their basic wage with hefty overtime payments and bonuses, including a plumber who was paid £54,000 and a lollipop man who took home £370 for ten hours' work a week.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, has ordered a "high-level" audit of council departments as well as DLOs.

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## How Labour is held to account for rate rise

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

BY far the most important political decision of the week, the month, and possibly the year, was taken yesterday morning by a group without any elected politicians on it. The unexpected move by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England to raise interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point to 7.5 per cent could have profound implications for not just the state of the economy but also the political standing of the Government.

The decision highlights the dilemma posed by Gordon Brown's transfer to the Bank of responsibility for setting interest rates. It has been given an explicit remit by the Chancellor to set rates to meet his inflation target. How it achieves this is a matter of fine and shifting judgment, as we have seen over the last few months in the changing voting line-ups on the committee (revealed six weeks later). In the immediate sense this removes the Chancellor from direct accountability for any particular decision. His role is over the medium term, in fixing the target and discussing any significant divergence with the Bank Governor.

The Chancellor cannot, however, step out of the firing line. The Opposition will not let him. The Tories and the Liberal Democrats yesterday talked of the "blow" to business. But this is not the real point. The question is whether the Government could have done anything to prevent a further rise in rates. In particular, should Mr Brown have raised taxes on consumers rather than savers in last July's Budget? That might have produced a better balance now and eased the predicament of the Monetary Policy Committee.

The Bank's central concern,

as it made clear yesterday, is whether demand will slow down sufficiently quickly to bring down inflation before the effects of the increased strength of the pound wear off. In short, what can be done to slow the rate of growth of private-sector wage rises? Appeals by ministers for pay restraint are a waste of time on their own. A tightening of the monetary screw is more effective as a signal to industry on pay, and Alistair Darling last night pointed to the connection.

The key question is not just whether the Bank was right yesterday in its judgment about the inflation prospects, but whether the further rise in rates, and upward pressure on sterling, helps to turn the forecast slackening of growth into an outright recession. All Mr Brown's plans — and Labour's re-election strategy — is predicated on a gentle

slowdown. If there is a recession, and a consequent sharp rise in unemployment, then not only will Mr Brown's hopes of a continuing Budget surplus evaporate, but his Welfare to Work programme will also be threatened. And Labour's poll ratings will nosedive.

So in that respect the transfer of responsibility for monetary policy is only partial. Not only does much depend on the Chancellor's fiscal stance, but he and the Government will inescapably be held accountable for the consequences. The Prime Minister's spokesman yesterday strongly backed the Bank's general approach. Anything else would have undermined the credibility of the decision to make the Bank responsible for setting rates. Mr Brown has invested a lot in the Bank being right. The irony is that if the Chancellor had retained responsibility, he might have raised rates sooner, and faster.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Opt-out Britain 'gatecrashes' euro club party

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

BRITAIN'S opt-out (or self-imposed exclusion) from the European single currency was given stark enactment last night when Gordon Brown was allowed to make only a brief appearance to open the club of 11 governments that are about to embrace the euro.

The Chancellor was given one hour to officiate at the opening of the "Euro-11" council on behalf of the current British EU presidency before he was shown the door of the Luxembourg chateau of Senningen. As Mr Brown and his staff left, declining to speak to journalists, the 11 finance ministers of the future "euroland" got down to business and dinner under the chairmanship of Rudolf Edlinger of Austria.

Mr Brown was one of the first to arrive at the secluded Luxembourg chateau which during the Second World War was taken over by the Nazis and renamed The Goebbels Foundation, a recreation centre for artists.

Mr Brown had asked to open the council, which will co-ordinate economic policy in the euro zone, on the ground of London's current chairmanship of the EU Council of Ministers. The Government is eager to prevent the monthly

informal council, known initially as Euro-X, from acquiring power and eclipsing Ecofin, the law-making forum of all 15 finance ministers.

However, EU officials and diplomats were surprised at Britain's eagerness to take part in the session. Mr Brown was not even due to attend the formal "family photo" portrait of the ministers and EU officials. A European diplomat said: "Britain had been naive to insist on a place for itself at the Euro council, the continental diplomat said. The view that Britain had exposed itself to embarrassment was widespread among participating ministers.

The session offered a target for Conservative fire. Graham Mather, Conservative MEP for Hampshire North and Oxford, said Britain was being seriously embarrassed. "It is unprecedented for a member state to be so thoroughly sidelined in the EU while that nation holds the presidency," he said.

Officials from France, Italy and several other states did not mask their view that the "Euro-11" theatre, ten days before the climax of the British presidency at a Cardiff summit, was a foretaste of the power

balance to come when the euro states more closely harness their economies in January. Britain has chosen to stay outside the euro, along with Denmark and Sweden, while Greece has failed to qualify.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, called last night's session "an extremely important event" that raised the curtain on the new economic management of Europe. France is pressing to turn the euro council into a full-blown political counterweight to the European Central Bank.

Tony Blair tried last December to block the creation of the euro council. He won a vaguely worded promise that the "out" states would be invited to attend sessions when it discussed matters of common interest. Britain and the other three "outs" are to be invited to a session in September.



A wounded Ethiopian surrenders to Eritrean soldiers at the border yesterday

# Ethiopians accept US deal to end clash with Eritrea

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA EDITOR

RWANDAN and American diplomats yesterday persuaded Ethiopia and Eritrea to end a border conflict which could destabilise a vast area of Africa and destroy the reputations of leaders hailed as the driving force behind an "African renaissance".

The conflict along Eritrea's border had threatened to undermine an alliance of African leaders who have been prominent, with American backing, in providing a united front against the radical Islamic regime in Sudan, and led the way in deposing Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko.

Until last month Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and President Aferwerki of Eritrea were seen as the strongest links in a network of leaders stretching from the Red Sea to Luanda. The two former bush fighters were close friends, distant cousins, and shared a guerrilla's regard for austerity and discipline. Now they are leaders of

battle-hardened troops — on one side, veterans of a 30-year struggle for Eritrean independence from Addis Ababa; on the other, Ethiopian former guerrillas who fought beside the Eritreans for 15 years against Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime which fell in May 1991.

Heavily armed, well-equipped and highly trained, the two armies have the capacity to engulf their countries in a conventional war. "The sad thing is, when we fight we really fight," said an Eritrean government official who was among the first fighters to enter Addis Ababa alongside his Ethiopian comrades who overthrew Mengistu's dictatorship.

President Zenawi of Ethiopia last night accepted the deal which called for the withdrawal of Eritrean troops from an area claimed by both sides.

London: The European Union condemned the border clashes between Ethiopia and Eritrea. (Reuters)

# Spy satellites track Chinese arms ship

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

US SPY satellites are tracking a Chinese ship taking weapons and electronics to Pakistan amid fears that China has ignored international calls to end arms trading with the troubled region.

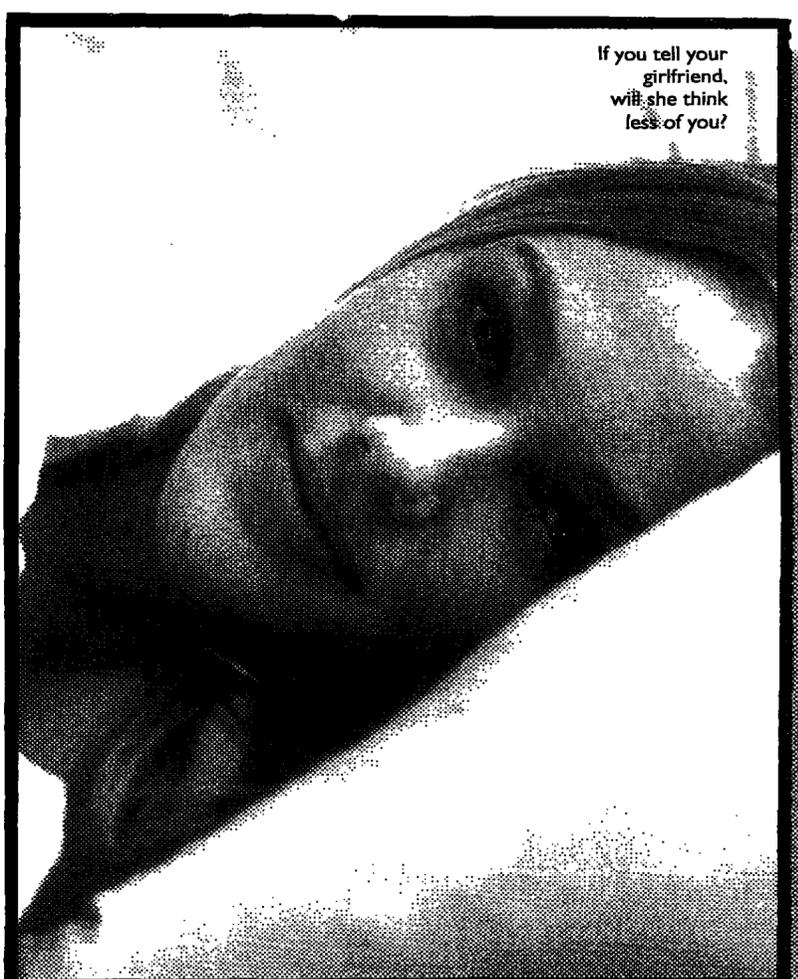
The cargo includes metals and electronics used to make Chinese-designed anti-tank missiles, according to *The Washington Times*. The shipment has been designated of "high-interest" by US intelligence agencies because it is believed to be headed for A.Q. Khan Research Laboratories — the facility that produced the nuclear devices

Pakistan exploded last week. China and Pakistan have long had a pact to co-operate on building Bakhtar anti-tank missiles. The shipment is not believed to be connected with Pakistan's nuclear ambitions, intelligence officials say.

□ Nuclear barrier: Foreign ministers from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council yesterday in Geneva refused to accept India and Pakistan as nuclear club members, and called on them to stop testing (Michael Evans writes).

Letters, page 25

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Patrizia Reggiani in court, before she opted to remain in her cell

# Gucci widow's diary 'lists steps to murder'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE former wife of Maurizio Gucci on trial for the murder of the fashion empire heir is incriminated by apparent references in her diary to his killing and the plot which led up to it, according to the prosecution.

Patrizia Reggiani, 50, has only appeared in court once since the trial opened just over three weeks ago. Yesterday she again exercised her right under Italian law to remain in her cell, and said she had no intention of appearing again because "the stress is too great". In her absence, the prosecution showed the court in Milan her elegant Cartier diary, with an entry consisting of the single word *paradiseis* (paradise) in capital letters on March 27, 1995, the day Gucci, 46, was shot at his office in Milan, allegedly by hitmen hired by Signora Reggiani through intermediaries.

The page is bordered with thick black lines, making it look like an obituary notice, prosecution lawyers said. They said it was not clear why Signora Reggiani, dubbed "The Black Widow" in the Italian media, had used the Greek word for paradise instead of the Italian *paradiso*.

The trial came to life on Tuesday, when Orazio Cicala, 59, who allegedly set up the murder and drove the

getaway car, told the court he had met Signora Reggiani several times before the murder. He said that, although he was initially reluctant, she had persuaded him to "do the job". He said the shooting had been carried out not by Benedetto Ceraulo, 36, the other accused hitman, but by a third gunman whom he said was too scared to name.

Signora Reggiani admits she "wanted Maurizio dead" when their 12-year marriage ended in divorce and her ex-husband took up with Paola Franchi, a blonde interior designer. But she says her wish was realised without her knowledge by Pina Aurienma, 52, her Naples clairvoyante and one-time friend. Signora Aurienma allegedly turned to Ivano Savioni, a hotel doorman, who recruited the two hitmen.

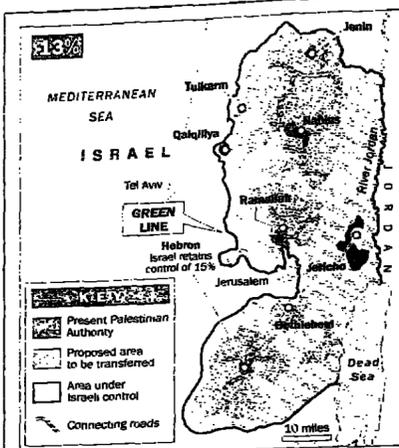
Prosecutors said Signora Reggiani had mainpained a Monte Carlo bank account from which she had drawn £200,000 shortly before the murder to pay the assassins. The prosecution said Signora Reggiani's diary showed she had contemplated her ex-husband's death over a period of years. On November 7, 1993, she wrote: "If you work in a brothel, you have to be better at it than the other girls."

On March 17 she wrote: "There is no crime that cannot be bought." Signora Reggiani also recorded phone calls from her ex-husband, his promises to send flowers which never arrived and the dates of his holidays with Signora Franchi.

Carlo Maria Collenghi, the police agent who infiltrated the Naples underworld disguised as "Carlos", a supposed Colombian drugs dealer and hitman, told the court he had taped conversations between Signora Savioni and Signora Aurienma which confirmed their part in the plot. He said he recognised Signor Ceraulo — in court behind a high security cage — as the man hired to fire the gun which killed Gucci.

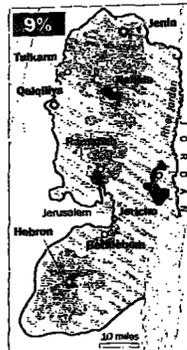
In an outburst from the cage, Signor Ceraulo protested that witnesses who identified him had been shown a photograph which was eleven years old.

Giancarlo Togliatti, the officer who led the investigation, said Signor Ceraulo's photograph had been among ten shown to the Gucci office doorman in Milan. He had immediately picked out Signor Ceraulo, saying: "That's him, the eyes are the same and so is the shape of the face, although his hair was a bit shorter."



## Leaked map puts US peace plan in jeopardy

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



THE American blueprint for rescuing the Middle East peace process from a 15-month deadlock was leaked yesterday, prompting claims that it would now be harder than ever to secure agreement on it from the right-wing Israeli Government.

Under the detailed plan published by *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv daily, Israel would have to agree to "no significant expansion" of Jewish settlements and hand over another 13 per cent of occupied West Bank land over 12 weeks, in return for a measurable Palestinian security clampdown. Unofficial maps recently published by *Haaretz* showed that if Israel handed over the 13 per cent demanded by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the US, 9,000 Jews in 18 settlements would be isolated, compared with only 1,700 Jews in ten settlements if Israel refused to yield more than the 9 to 10 per cent so far agreed by its Cabinet.

A spokesman for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said the draft published yesterday was more than one month old and some details had been altered. He accused the Palestinians of giving the draft to the Israeli left-wing opposition, who gave it to the Israeli media to sabotage the negotiations.

Although some details of the American plan had already been made public, yesterday's full publication ruined the timetable planned by the US State Department, which had hoped to keep details secret

until agreement had been reached by both sides.

Another Israeli paper, *Yediot Aharonot*, said that Mr Netanyahu had embraced most of the proposals, including the 13 per cent pullback over 12 weeks, and that the key sticking point now was the scope of an additional third withdrawal.

Another sticking point is Mr Netanyahu's demand that several hundred members of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, reconvene to revoke part of the PLO's charter calling for Israel's destruction.

Senior security officials on both sides have given warning of widespread armed clashes if the US initiative collapses. If it is accepted and passed by the 120-seat Knesset, then talks on a final peace deal can resume. They are due to conclude by May next year.

In the agreement, Israel promises not to expand Jewish settlements in a significant way, says it will refrain from demolishing 1,800 Palestinian homes erected illegally and will also restrict land confiscation in territory occupied since 1967.

The Palestinians for their part will not question Israel's credentials at the United Nations and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, will outlaw incitement against Israel and systematically confiscate illegal weapons.

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### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Aids vaccine to be tested on 7,500

Washington: The US Government has given a California company approval to conduct the world's first large-scale test of an Aids vaccine (Tom Rhodes writes). The experiment, which many experts said was not an endorsement of the vaccine's potential, will involve 5,000 uninfected but high-risk volunteers in up to 40 clinics in the United States and Canada and 2,500 in clinics in Thailand.

In North America participants will be gay men and the uninfected partners of those carrying HIV. The virus that can lead to Aids. In Thailand volunteers will be uninfected people who are injecting drugs. The scientific community remains sharply divided over the tests by Vaxgen Inc.

## BBC crew on Yemen charges

Sanaa: Three BBC journalists have been charged with breaking Yemeni press regulations after filming, allegedly without official permission, in a tribal area where kidnappings of foreigners are rife. Rageh Omar, a reporter, said the charges were read out by a prosecuting lawyer at the end of questioning at the Attorney-General's office. "We all pleaded not guilty," he said. The television crew were detained on May 26 on their return to Sanaa but released 48 hours later after questioning. The authorities have kept their passports and equipment. (AFP)

## Timor crash kills army chiefs

Baseas, East Timor: Most of Indonesia's senior military officers based in the troubled territory of East Timor died in a helicopter crash which no one survived, military officials said. Eleven of the 12 people on board the Bell 205 helicopter were killed outright in the accident, which happened during heavy rain; the twelfth person died in hospital in Baucau. A military official said that the helicopter crashed after clipping trees in the hills outside the village of Liaroka near Viqueque, about 120 miles southeast of Dili, the capital. (Reuters)

## Lifelong smoker 'dies at 136'

Beirut: Ali bin Mohamud Hussein, a folk poet who claimed to be 136 and thus the world's oldest person, has died at his home in Qinyah, northern Lebanon, newspapers reported. "He lived in silence and died in silence surrounded by a cloud of cigarette smoke," reported *An-Nahar*, adding that he was a smoker all his life. The newspaper published Hussein's family status document, showing he was born in 1862. But the registration of his identity was made in 1932. *The Guinness Book of Records* refused to recognise his claim. (AP)

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# Hopeless defiance as shells fall on Kosovo

THE Serbs call it the eradication of terrorism, the Albanians call it ethnic cleansing — whatever the correct term for the fighting raging in western Kosovo's Decane region, a reign of terror has descended over its farms and villages, sending a continuous stream of refugees across the nearby borders into Albania and Montenegro.

As shells thudded down a mile from the house where we had intended to sleep, dozens of women and children ran through the compound gates, seeking some form of security in numbers. We looked up at the traces of artillery fire in the night sky, and realised the village where we had just interviewed commanders of the Kosovo Liberation Army was under siege.

"You can smell the grenades," said our host, a lawyer, as a warm breeze gusted through the garden beneath a half-moon. "What sort of life is this that we put up with?" He brought no argument, but we had to leave for our own safety, he said, pushing us into his battered Volkswagen and driving back without lights through the darkness towards Dakovica. Young men appeared from behind hedges and clan compound walls; many in uniform, they gave the fistful KLA salute, a gesture of hopeless defiance against the tanks and anti-aircraft guns the Serbs have ranged on either side of the broad valley.

Earlier, Decane had seemed so peaceful, a rural haven where men scythed meadows and herds of cattle roamed free. We had spent four hours evading police checkpoints to get to Dakovica, the region's

main southern town; we drove on trails as far as possible, then forded a river on a tractor, before local members of the Democratic League for Kosovo drove us warily down the back road leading towards the villages being pounded daily by the Serbs.

Our passports were taken and sent down the line of command and, as darkness fell, we were summoned closer to the fighting. At times our guides forced us to run, stooped, across meadows, for fear of the Serb snipers on hills one mile on either side. For the most part we crisscrossed our way down the sides of a small brook, well covered by foliage.

"It sounds strange, but everything they do makes us stronger," said a young, shaven-headed KLA officer. His litigating English had a French or Italian twang to it, suggesting time spent in the Foreign Legion; he would say only he had come to save his people, with a people's army. "You look at the children here and they chant our name," he continued. "It is not a question of when we will die, but when will we win our liberty?"

He and his colleagues listed seven or eight villages they claimed the Serbs had razed through their continuous shelling. The region's main town, Decane, was described by one commander as being "like Vukovar", the Croatian town levelled by the Yugoslav National Army in 1991.

"We can never live with the Serbs again. If they cannot demonstrate to stop this war in Belgrade, then why should we?" said the officer. "The Serb nation has been killed by Slobodan Milosevic — how is it the international community continues to talk to him?"

He was erudite, cool and convincing. When freed, Kosovo's government would



Tom Walker visits the rural haven turned into a battlefield by the conflict between Serbs and ethnic Albanians

be decided by a referendum, he said. "But now my time is precious, you will understand. Every hour is the life of someone." He and his colleagues in camouflage uniforms, equipped with new Kalashnikovs, pistols and bayonets, melted into the night.

Later, a safe distance from the shells that sought the same commanders, we found ourselves in a magnificent new compound built by an engineer, a *Gastarbeiter* recently returned from Germany. It had cost Skander more than £300,000 to build, an investment he now risked seeing blown to rubble.

"We got our weapons on our backs, the Serbs bring them in on trucks — this is leading nowhere," he lamented,

ed, barking orders to the local KLA command into his handset.

In the morning we began our long walk out, only to find a priest waving his arms frantically in our direction. The police were coming, he shouted, we had to run for our lives. Panting, we sought refuge in his vast Catholic church.

With bated breath we watched the police patrol — the first down the track in three months — stop outside the church gates. It seemed an eternity until they went, seemingly to reinforce the sniper positions on a hill nearby.

"These are the final twitches of a dying animal," said the priest, referring to Mr Milosevic. "But somehow we have to find a political way out — otherwise this will be another Bosnia."

Three hours later, after dodging through fields and jumping on passing lorries, we waded across the river in Dakovica, and out of Decane, with the dull crumps of shells in the distance.



Ethnic Albanian children escape the fighting in Kosovo in a military truck bound for northern Albania. About 12,000 refugees have fled across the border since last weekend, according to the Albanian Government

It is not a case of when we will die, but when will we win our liberty?

## Albanians quit talks

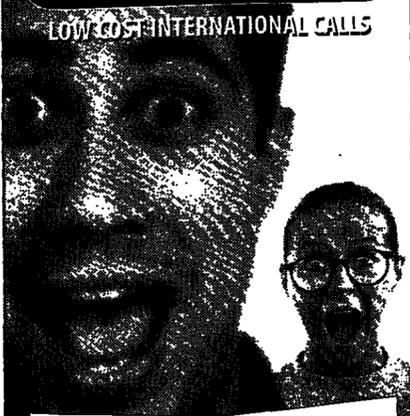
Pristina: Ethnic Albanian officials pulled out of talks with the Serbian Government last night, demanding a halt to the offensive that has devastated villages and sent tens of thousands fleeing. The Serbs denied that the police and Yugoslav army assault across a broad swath of

western Kosovo is a strike at civilians, describing it as a protective sweep against separatist guerrillas.

The ethnic Albanians say dozens of villagers have been killed in the Serb action and tens of thousands are waiting for a chance to escape to Albania. (AP)



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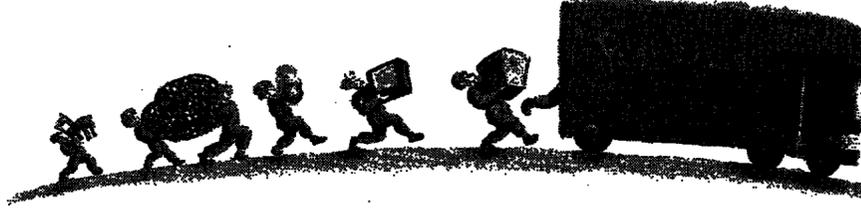
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# Train tragedy unites Germans in grief



Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, inspects the site of the train disaster near Eschede, Lower Saxony

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday led his country in mourning as the death toll from Germany's rail disaster approached 100.

A speed limit of 160kph (100mph) has been imposed on all Inter City Express (ICE) trains — the high-speed express which was until now Germany's technological gem — and the 104 in service are to be checked for irregularities. But investigators were no closer to solving the riddle of how one of Europe's fastest trains jumped off its tracks on a piece of straight line and in clear weather.

"Standing above the track," said the Chancellor in Eschede yesterday, "you get a feeling for the people who were inside the train — going to business meetings perhaps, to meet friends, maybe even on holiday, but in fact travelling to their deaths."

The German leader, plainly moved, broke off a summit in Italy to come to the crash site in northern Germany. His election challenger, Gerhard Schröder, prime minister of Lower Saxony, was also moving among rescue workers praising them for their "super-human endurance". Both politicians have promised speedy help for the families of the victims.

Some 50 relatives have arrived in Eschede, near Celle, to identify victims. Detectives specialising in dental work

and air disasters have been flown by helicopter to the village to identify the many dismembered bodies. The worst, it is feared, will come in the next 24 hours when the final chunks of concrete are lifted from the restaurant wagon — capable of holding 30 people — and probably a second carriage that telescoped into it.

The death toll was put late yesterday afternoon at 92 with about 60 injured, some seriously. Doctors say it is unlikely that they will find more survivors in the mangled wreckage. The smell of the trapped bodies is already beginning to waft through the carriages and rescue workers are wearing masks. The testimony of the engine driver and other passengers seems to contradict the claims of the British plasterer who said on Wednesday that a car fell into the path of the train.

Aerial photographs show that the engine disconnected from the rest of the train and ran on ahead well beyond the road bridge. The first three carriages ran free and shot off the tracks but did not suffer great damage. The fourth carriage, however, hit a pillar of the bridge and probably caused it to collapse. The following carriages smashed into the crippled fourth. Hundreds of tonnes of concrete then poured on to the train as the bridge fell apart.



Susanne Kleinbrahm, a student on her way home to Hamburg on the Inter City Express, told journalists from a hospital bed in Hanover how lucky she was to escape with her life. "I noticed the train started to shake strangely and vibrate, and then suddenly there was a crash. It was really awful, terrible. I can't describe it"

Consumer organisations yesterday called for the introduction of safety belts on high-speed trains. This seems unlikely to happen, but a serious debate has opened up about the fundamental safety of such trains. The Japanese "bullet" trains, operating since the 1960s, have never had an accident. The French TGV has a very good record. The ICE is actually slower than both these trains and it, too, has

been relatively free of incident since regular services began in 1991.

But there have been surprisingly few crash impact tests on the ICE. Most have been computer simulations and there has been nothing to compare with the full frontal crash tests used by car manufacturers. There is constant pressure to make the trains quicker, since this is the key to their commercial success.

Since ICE trains began, air traffic between Frankfurt and Berlin, for example, has dropped by 23 per cent and train traffic has risen by 36 per cent. The new generation of ICEs, due to come into service next year, are aiming at speeds of 330kph.

A high-speed train also takes much of the initiative from the train driver: they are virtually powerless against obstacles on the track. The driver

can still stop the train by hand, but this is very much the exception. The on-board computer receives its information from an electronic cable on the line which briefs the driver about signals, stops and speed fluctuations. At 200kph the driver can barely recognise an obstacle on the track. The braking time is so long (2kms at high speed) that there is not much the driver can do anyway.

## Weeping villagers queue to donate blood

BY DEBORAH COLCUTT

ON PUBLIC buildings, flags fly at half-mast, politicians, railway staff and broadcasters are wearing black as a mark of respect for the dead and injured of Germany's worst train crash in more than 30 years.

Last night hundreds of villagers, relatives of the dead and wounded, joined emergency workers and volunteers for a memorial service in Eschede's small church.

As Germany tries to come to terms with the accident, forensic science pathologists started the gruelling task of identifying the dead. Bodies laid out in rows in tents acting as makeshift mortuaries in a field near the track are so badly mutilated that it could take a number of days before they can be conclusively identified with dental records.

Germans are desperate to help in any way they can. Some people in Eschede have been aiding the emergency services, others help by bringing food and hot drinks to the workers, many of whom have been on duty without sleep since the accident on Wednesday lunchtime.

"I saw the car squashed under the carriages, which apparently had been on the road bridge," said one local resident, Gerhard Bleyl, wiping tears from his eyes. "There was nothing left of it and two small children were crying for their mother — I couldn't bear it: I had to walk away." Herr Bleyl, like many others unable to cope with the impact of the accident, queued in the hot June sun to donate blood.

A hospital director in Hanover, where many of the injured are being treated, said: "One 13-year-old boy came down with some books under his arm and offered to read to the patients."

By the lift near the entrance to the wards where many of the critically injured lie, hospital staff have lighted candles around a message written on a piece of cardboard placed on the floor: "May God be with you and protect you in your hardest hour."

More than 50 clergymen are in Eschede helping relatives of the dead and wounded, many of whom have come to the scene of the accident because they have been unable to establish what has happened.

Slowly railway officials, the police, relatives and friends are piecing together who was on the Hamburg-bound express train, which did not have a passenger list.

The families have been offered accommodation and food by the people of Eschede, but the majority cannot stay sitting in one place and wander around awaiting the worst and still hoping for the best.

### FIVE THEORIES BEHIND THE CRASH

Five lines of investigation are taking shape although the commission of 28 detectives, announced yesterday by Chief Superintendent Erich Philipp, is unlikely to reach any conclusion for several weeks:

- Theory one: a car slid off the road bridge on to part of the train (although not the engine).
- Theory two: railworkers on the line created a danger of some sort, perhaps a forgotten tool.
- Theory three: several miles before the crash, the sand under the track had eroded causing one of the carriages to come off the rails and drag the rest of the train with it. Alternatively, a damaged section of track, which has reportedly been found by police, derailed the train. The track was not designed for high-speed traffic hence the restrained speed of 170mph. Inter City Express trains are capable of much higher speeds.
- Theory four: the road bridge was unstable and started to fall on the train as it passed underneath.
- Theory five: a wheel on one of the carriages just behind the engine broke off.

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# Shop like auntie, write like Dante



He's got time if you deal in rhyme: Peter Sansom, the M&S poet-in-residence, who insists that anyone can write poetry

Peter Sansom is probably the first department store poet in the world. Interview by Susan Ellicott

It's midday in the staff cafeteria at Marks & Spencer's superstore in Norwich and Peter Sansom is gasping for a cigarette. He settles his two-year-old daughter, Mary, into the glass-entombed smoking room with a bag of Jelly Tots, and lights a roll-up.

No marks for political correctness here. But Sansom doesn't have to worry. He's poetically correct instead. Since January, he's been the chain's official poet-in-residence, its first, and possibly the first department store poet in the world. As part of his duties, he's in Norwich to give a poetry workshop to M&S staff.

There's only one hitch. So far, nobody has shown up. Not to worry. Sansom shares a slice of M&S cheese and potato pie with Mary, and ponders on the drive home to Sheffield and then Huddersfield, where he teaches a poetry class for graduates at the university.

"It's great, this job," he says of his six-month post at M&S. "I'm forced to write poems now rather than think I should be reading someone else's manuscript." Sansom's stint at Marks & Spencer is part of an experiment by senior management to bring "high culture" to employees and to encourage the mixing of staff. Events laid on at the Baker Street head office include a performance by the Royal Ballet in the canteen, a talk about quantum physics and a visit to London's Institute of Contemporary Art.

So far, the department store is delighted with Sansom,

whose main task is to give four hour-long writing workshops a month at Baker Street. Those who attend in their lunch breaks reportedly return to their jobs charged with fresh energy after a poetry session.

"He's maybe not the greatest poet in the world," concedes Julia Havis, who oversees the cultural events, "but he is the best for what we want him to do, which is communicate to other people. He's fun and doesn't take himself seriously. He misses trains. He forgets his fare. I have to lend him money. But it makes him seem more of a poet."

Indeed, poets-in-residence are in vogue. They are springing up like Wordsworth's daffodils. The Royal Parks have one. The BBC has one. London Zoo may get one. Even Barnsley Football Club boasts one. "If you don't have an in-house poet these days, you're nobody," says Sansom. Many of them, Sansom included, are assigned by The Poetry Society, which receives funds from the National Lottery. Sansom confesses he "should not need the approbation" but, after a life of virtual literary obscurity, "I do".

He is also happy to be receiving an extra salary. He and his wife, Ann, a poet, too, are raising four children between them on fairly prosaic incomes. They both teach part-

time and top up their incomes by reading at poetry festivals and public libraries. M&S pays Sansom's travel expenses, while his monthly salary of about £900 — a princely sum by most poets' standards — comes from The Poetry Society. The couple have just bought a second-hand Volvo — with an overdraft on his student bank account. Now in his forties, Sansom was the first in his family to attend university,

where a teacher encouraged him to write. His first book, published in 1990, sold 2,000 copies in a year, which is "a lot for a poet". He called it *Everything You've Heard Is True*. He guesses that sales of his second book, out since 1994, have yet to pay off his £500 publisher's advance.

No matter, Sansom seems happy with his lot, especially when teasing the hidden talents from his M&S pupils. At his first Baker Street workshop, he asked those who attended to read poems aloud. Later, he made them put pen to paper. "It's more natural to write poems than to read them," he says.

He insists that anyone can write poetry but that most of us are too self-conscious. Recently, he was chuffed with the results of a homework assignment. He asked a class to write a poem from the point of view of a blade of grass on a football pitch. His favourite last line of the work turned in was "Eric Cantona killed my brother".

In the end, he's even pleased with the trip to Norwich. Parway through his pudding with Mary, a would-be student arrives. Steve MacMillan-Johnston is a former musician who used to write blues songs. He apologises for not bringing any poetry, but his father is dying, his wife is ill and, after work, he looks after his three children, aged six to 14. Yet he still dreams of writing.

Does he have any published work? The former retail manager looks a bit sheepish. Some jokes in a newspaper in 1976. Everything counts, Sansom assures him. His favourite poets? An eclectic bunch that embraces Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the voices of America's Beat Generation, as well as the late Poet Laureate, John Betjeman. Warming to this poet with the common touch, the M&S man tells Sansom about "a guy in menswear" who brings his writing into work and another "on the operations side" who writes short stories. Sansom promises to return.

His sojourn at Marks & Spencer has even inspired many of the poems in his next book, including one about a washing-machine in product development.

"Friends tell me, 'Peter, you're really lucky you've managed to do exactly what you wanted to do', but I don't see it like that," he says of his poetry writing. "I'm unemployable at anything else."

He'll miss trains, forget his fare, just like any poet

# The honest gizmo: tells you what your best friend won't

Being well versed in the etiquette of international diplomacy, it probably didn't escape your notice either that during the Japanese Emperor's recent visit to Britain, everybody in his entourage — along with all his well-briefed hosts — steered well clear of the delicate subject of pooping. This is because you and I know that pooping is not a subject that people feel comfortable talking about openly in Japan (a country whose name derives from the ancient Chinese *Ja*, meaning "never mention", and *Pan*, meaning toilets). This is why the Japanese were the first people to invent games designed to help other shy Japanese to overcome their poop-shyness.

One such game that I encountered when living in Japan a few years ago was *Say What You Want*. It was promoted for its educational merits in helping Japanese people to conquer their innate shyness in chatting about bodily functions. This game used a lifesize lump of plastic faeces as a counter (I am not making this up) which moved around a board designed as a lavatory, depending on how players answered questions about parts of the body and their functions. Other nationalities would have produced the exact same game. If only they had thought of it first and had accidentally swallowed large doses of mesalazine.

Other games aimed to cure different social headaches. For those who were tongue-tied when it came to mingling with the opposite sex, there was *Bodily Ruin*, a kind of Pelmanism card game in which a player who completed a matching pair could ask any other player to perform the task described on the card. The task on one card was standing in a corner of the room with the card sticking out of your bottom.

So it comes as little surprise to hear that the Japanese have just invented a

new plaything to bring single Japanese men and women closer. This egg-shaped gadget, called a *Lovegety*, is a sort of pocket alarm that beeps and flashes when a likely lover is close by. If you are within 15ft of your ideal partner — and he or she is also equipped with a *Lovegety* — then your *Lovegety* starts beeping. And you don't even have to fly to Tokyo to get one. *Lovegeties* will be here next month.

However, the Japanese are smart enough to grasp that there's no point in your *Lovegety* beeping like a Geiger counter if your potential lover looks across and sees someone the size of Mount Fuji. So they have also invented another gadget, the *Teku Teku Angel*. This is a computerised pocket pedometer, disguised as a Tamagotchi-style pet which has to be taken for "walkies". You carry it in your belt. If you don't walk enough to keep your *Teku Teku Angel* happy, the image on its little screen turns into a fat, flabby pig. That's you, that pig.

Sadly there don't seem to be any plans to transplant the *Teku Teku Angel* to Britain, even though — suitably modified — it could prove a boon to people who are anxious about more than just turning flabby. Why not



**MAN ON TOP**  
JOE JOSEPH

make them standard issue for politicians? Labour MPs could be alerted to boorish behaviour by the image on the screens of their *Teku Teku Angels* turning not into flabby pigs but into something even scarier, such as Robin Cook. Chat-show hosts would be chastened by seeing the image on their pocket screens turn into Des O'Connor. Comics would start telling funny jokes as soon as the Doran Gray face on their *Angels* metamorphosed into Bob Monkhouse.

Newspaper columnists, of course, would also be issued with their own, specially adapted *Teku Teku Angel* to warn them when they had reached a point at which they were be-

ginning to test readers' credulity and patience by appearing in almost every newspaper, almost every day, delivering 1,000 words on every subject from the euro to Ireland to the World Cup.

Once we heard the beep on our *Angels*, we wouldn't even need to glance at the screen. We would know instinctively that the image was already showing the face of the planet's most prolific columnist, Tony Blair. You might well think that some of those articles are poop from start to finish. But just you try getting a Japanese to say as much.

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Luciano Benetton: "It could be amusing to meet Signor Bossi. But he does not appreciate Italian unity"

# Political colours of Benetton

**Y**et another colourful and volatile figure has joined the cast list of Italy's long-running political tragicomedy, with its heady mixture of scandal, intrigue and absurdity.

Luciano Benetton, the man who sells his woollies around the world using highly provocative posters of Aids victims and war casualties, is urging his fellow countrymen to ignore the blandishments of a political movement set on national fragmentation.

He has attacked the "provocative" policies of the separatist Northern League — which is seeking independence for the Veneto — and urged the people of the region to join a new political grouping of which he is the mascot.

His Movimento Nordest (northeast movement) aims to make Italy's richest area autonomous, like Spain's Catalonia, without suggesting, as the Northern League leader Umberto Bossi does, that Northerners should not support their country in the World Cup.

Speaking at the Villa Minelli, his 17th-century headquarters near Treviso, decorated with frescoes and situated in a sprawling park with a private vineyard, the 63-year-old leisurewear king stepped into the political fray for the first time in four years with a withering attack on the "uncouth" antics of Signor Bossi. "I don't consider the League a serious phenomenon, but it has to be dealt with to deflate it."

He laughs loudly when asked if he is disturbed by the rise of the "Greenshirts" — the uniformed League militia which was founded to fight for a breakaway northern state of Padania. "We make many colours here — in addition to green we have grey, red and black," he quips, shaking his mass of silver curls in amusement.

He pours scorn on Signor Bossi's "March on the Po", a demonstration which the League organised, with rallies along the northern river, that climaxed with a declaration of indepen-

**Clothing boss Luciano Benetton is backing a new semi-separatist party in Italy. Interview by John Phillips**

dence of the "Republic of the North" in Venice. "I was worried it was going to rain that day and ruin their party, because that was all it was."

The tycoon has never met Signor Bossi. "He is a provocateur. Perhaps it could be amusing. But he does not appreciate Italian unity."

Signor Benetton is concerned that the League won 40 per cent of votes in local elections held on May 24 in his native Treviso, and elsewhere across the rich Veneto. But he is satisfied with the growing strength of his new party. He says the Movimento — conceived by Massimo Cacciari, the Marxist philosopher who is Mayor of Venice, and a group of local businessmen — is gaining ground all the time.

"I am a supporter of the new party. I will provide moral support," he says. He asserts that the party's aims are simple: to turn the Veneto into an autonomous region within a federal Italy, on the lines of the Catalan Government in Spain.

The new party, which polled a modest 8 per cent of the vote in Treviso, aims to foil the League and protesters from its extreme fringe who climbed the bell-tower in St Mark's Square, Venice, a year ago to call for the re-establishment of the Venetian republic.

"The election results were respectable but not good enough," Signor Benetton says. "But with 8 per cent there is a possibility for an alternative for this group to construct a different philosophy that embraces federalism, which is something everyone wants."

Signor Benetton's last venture into politics was in 1992, when he was elected a senator for the centrist Republican Party. He hoped to throw his weight behind efforts to reform the country in the wake of yet another corruption scandal. However, the party was to vanish in Italy's

ever-changing political landscape.

"I saw that I did not have the characteristics of a politician. I believe that political progress, especially in Italy, is something very slow, laden with bureaucracy."

His concern for his country's future has been deepened by the war which ravaged former Yugoslavia. There, the struggle for separatism was to cost tens of thousands of lives.

He opened a shop for his clothes in Sarajevo during its siege, and also has shops in Belgrade. One of his most controversial campaigns at the time featured posters showing a pair of bloodstained latigues once worn by a Croatian soldier.

He does not believe, however, that Italy is in danger of breaking up like its turbulent neighbour — not yet, anyway. "The situation is much less extreme. Yet I do not underestimate the League: one has to listen to what it says on some issues — for example, greater local autonomy."

"The Government of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, has already gone some way to meeting northern demands for less tax to be paid to Rome by promising to reduce fiscal pressure. If the Movimento Nordest gathers momentum, it could sound the death-knell for the League in the Veneto and help to reduce tensions. The League took the votes of the old parties, above all of the Christian Democrats. But the political climate can change again."

A self-made millionaire who began selling clothes at 14, he is unconcerned by the far-left views of his new political fellow traveller, the Mayor of Venice: "I see Signor Cacciari as a very up-to-date, practical person who is similar to other mayors of big cities. They don't want to play

politics in the old way." He will not be drawn on the alleged racist tendencies of his rival, Signor Bossi, who frequently says that southern Italians and North African immigrants are to blame for the woes of the North. But he insists that he will continue to fight discrimination by using the provocative images of Oliviero Toscani, the Benetton photographer.

"Advertising has a habit of portraying only the rich, beautiful and blonde. We need images of normal people, to help us to see the world differently."

The "yes" vote in Northern Ireland has made him optimistic about his decision to focus on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in his 1998 catalogue. He hopes that a longing for peace is sweeping the world — "People don't want war or polemics."

But how does he square plans to do business in Burma — internationally condemned for its record on human rights — with high principles? The controversy has brought criticism and the tycoon is plainly sensitive. He now plans to limit his operations there to a single store in the duty-free section at Rangoon airport. Whether that satisfies his critics remains to be seen.

"We will work with a local entrepreneur. Opening a store doesn't mean agreeing with a dictator," he says defensively.

In spite of his insistence that he wants to stay out of active politics, Signor Benetton, a popular figure in the North, is clearly tempted to join the next electoral battle against Signor Bossi. But he must balance ambition against the risk to his safety that participation in politics might involve.

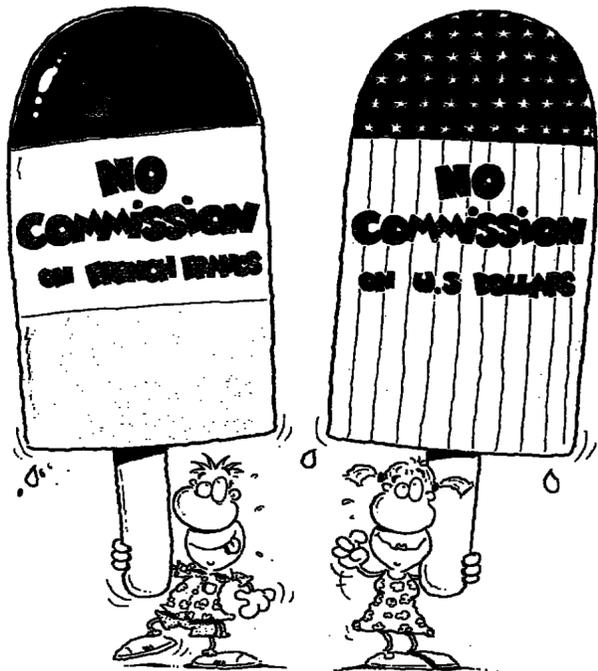
He was shocked by the murder of fashion designer Gianni Versace, and members of his entourage are concerned about their boss's safety.

Security is apparently low-key at Benetton HQ, with its manicured lawns and ornamental ponds. But there are recent reports that Signor Benetton's bodyguards foiled an attempt to abduct him for ransom.

**'Opening a store does not mean you agree with a dictator'**

**'Political progress in Italy is something very slow'**

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# Heady start to the season

The French actress Polaire said to her friend, the novelist Colette, that she knew her latest hat was a success when people laughed at it in the street. In England, with the gallant exception of my namesake, Mrs Shilling, whose Ascot hats have become, over the years, a kind of national event, rather like Changing the Guard, we do not take this view. In fact, having been taught that it is Very Wrong to Draw Attention to Yourself, we don't much like anything going on top of our heads, whether hat or hairdo, that might be deemed even faintly *outré*. The result is that we are all utterly devoted to what we think of as a "natural" look.

For the rest of the summer season the society magazines will be full of the flower of English womanhood, every inch of them groomed until it hurts, except their hair, which will be straight, loose, and as rumpled as though they had just tumbled out of bed.

Now, looking as though you have just fallen out of bed is absolutely fine if you are 25 and as pretty as a picture. After 30, however, you run a serious risk that lack of artifice may be confused with simple sluttishness. The time has come to investigate what a friend of mine calls "hair appliances" — that is anything from kirby grips to complicated structures fashioned from beads and feathers that could pass for a hat or a piece of modern art. (The couture milliner Philip Treacy is particularly brilliant at these — airy structures that somehow manage to combine elegance and an uncompromisingly futuristic look with a kind of eccentric reticence that is particularly well suited to the British face. Don't, however, try to wear them at Ascot. In the Royal Enclosure, at least, the crown of the head must be covered.)

Now, if you detect a certain note of born-again fanaticism in all this, you would not be wrong. My "Road to Damascus" came, oddly enough, with a really duff haircut. It is hard to make my hair look messier than nature intended, but an unwise experiment with a new

hairdresser did the trick. Obviously, I couldn't go about in public looking like that. And so I found myself entering a brave new world of hair appliances. In a couple of weeks I have acquired a severe black grosgrain bow (very French), another with a row of red satin rosebuds (very Helena Christensen) and a third with a single, huge, purple velvet rose on it (very Mrs

## CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

Patrick Campbell). Trying to choose between a pair of jewelled dragonflies and a brace of fat, gilt cherub clips, I noticed something else. All this pinning up has transformed my silhouette. I've got a neck. And a small, neat head on which I could wear a chic little hat (one of Matthew Williamson's padded, sculptural shapes, perhaps, or Philip Treacy's *Story of O*-style red horned mask with an explosion of crimson feathers).

In related vein, Dai Rees at Fenwick has minimalist headbands adorned with feathers carved into driftwood shapes, £99, and a tiny black velvet beanie with peacock feathers, £259. At Selfridges, Sig's tiny hat is more of a high-rise hairslide really — a spiral of black horsehair and cock's feathers, £139. The most delicious compromise between hat and no hat is Stephen Jones's airy navy confection — a narrow band of feathers supporting a cloudy cartwheel of finest tulle, £489.

Back in the real world, what I'd really like is the rosebud clip with which I noticed Gwyneth Paltrow pinning back her fringe the other day.

There is a pretty version at Harvey Nichols by Noel, £9. They also string a scattering of pink silk rosebuds or yellow-centred marguerites on an almost invisible nylon thread. £22. Dolce & Gabbana's butterfly ornaments, Valentino's flowered combs, Chanel's



Philip Treacy's airy structures combine elegance and an uncompromisingly futuristic look with a kind of eccentric reticence

beaded snoods, and Christian Lacroix's gilded flowers, all have their counterpart in the high street, at prices low enough to mean that you can buy them in handfuls.

Johnny Loves Rosie, at Selfridges and elsewhere, has jewelled bug clips, £8.95 for a pair, and sugar-pink, feathered hair combs from £7.95. Angela Hale in Royal Arcade, Bond Street, W1, has grandly jewelled clips, as does Agathe in South Molton Street, W1. At

Harrods there are jewel-encrusted snoods from £90, and at Steinberg & Tolkein, 193 King's Road, SW3, there are beaded and snooded Juliet caps.

As for me, emboldened by the success of my flirtation with hair appliances, I think the next thing is one of Philip Treacy's dramatic hair combs — a sort of cross between a hair ornament and a small, sculptural hat, just £40, at Harrods and Selfridges.

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# How do old folks fit into new Britain?

## John Lloyd says young Blair is at last pondering retirement

I was brought up in my grandparents' house. They helped my mother to bring me up and assumed as much right to reward and punish as she had. My most treasured photograph of childhood is of my grandfather, a craftsman, showing me how to attach one piece of wood to another. I watched both he and my grandmother decline and die; indeed, I was the first to discover my grandmother had died, and remember the relief that her crying would no longer cast a pall over the house, mixed with awe over my first corpse.

They worked, almost literally, till they dropped: my grandmother reading palms and telling fortunes from tea-leaves; my grandfather fiddling with old fishing boat engines whose repair had provided his living after he left the merchant marine. He, certainly, never doubted for a minute his importance in the house and his mastery of it — even after my mother remarried, and we lived uncomfortably with his angry awareness of the subterranean longing for his death. It was no idyll; real families seldom are.

interested in youth; no wonder, for the numbers of the elderly are mounting fast, and will increase by 50 per cent in the next 30 years. Not appearing to care about these grey panthers could invite a nasty clawing at an election — the more so since, unlike the youth, the panthers vote enthusiastically.

Today will see the announcement of various initiatives to help the aged, and of the appointment of a new inter-ministerial committee, chaired by John Denham, the Fensons Minister, and including junior ministers from most of the spending departments. Modelled on the rather higher-powered committee on the family chaired by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, the committee on the elderly has been told by the Prime Minister (who is said to have a particular concern for its work) to come up with lots of initiatives and attitudes before the summer recess.

It builds on a growing trend. It is now less and less the case that women at 60 and men at 65 hang up their working clothes after a lifetime's labour, and idle away their time until they become a burden, and then die. Some leave work

**Earlier generations worked till they dropped**

early with good pensions, and start another life of ease or ease mixed with voluntary or part-time work. Some leave work early because they have no choice, but find something to stop life feeling wholly futile. Many of the voluntary organisations in which this country is still rich would cease to exist without the panthers; many more children would be unintended, were it not for Granny.

Mr Denham's belief is that this should and can be encouraged. He sees tasks of guidance, of caring and of education needing to be done, and legions of older citizens with the desire and aptitude to do them. The Government must be unequivocally on the side of bringing the need and the capacity together — of finding ways through the fiscal and legislative barriers to offer useful work to those who fear they can be of no further use to others, or themselves.

They answer a crying need; a need which is often manifested by the crying of men and women who feel life has dumped them while they still have the heart and strength for more productive living. The appointment of the committee appears to be a recognition that the elderly's place of honour has long gone from most families; that, if honour is again to be associated with age, the State must assist in creating the conditions in which it can be manifest. New Labour, quietly, sees that neither society nor family can flourish unaided, in a world in which the market logic pitilessly chooses and rejects the fittest to serve it. The State has to make good the deficit, or it picks up a heavier tab on the end.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



# Lottery is theft

## Elizabethans and Hanoverians loved it and tired of it. So, in the end, will we

Eventually one must give up pretending. We struggle to reconcile ourselves to the whims of the age; we tell ourselves we can learn to love change, that old habits die hard but new tastes can grow. We try to keep an open mind about novelties swept in on the popular tide. We recite the benefits — electricity, free healthcare, pizzas — which were at first disparaged.

And sometimes patience is rewarded. The thing grows on us. What a silly old stick-in-the-mud I was: I couldn't live without my laptop/cassette/Abba tapes/take-away vindaloo, now. I've even developed a soft spot for the Eurovision Song Contest. But sometimes the irritation won't go. Still the hackles rise, still the dislike refuses to budge — and we start to suspect we shall carry this particular blind spot with us to the grave. "Alright then," murmured Lopez Felix Lopita de Carlo, on being told he was about to die. "I'll say it: Dante makes me sick."

All right, then, I'll say it: the National Lottery makes me sick. I hate it. I hate it on moral grounds, economic grounds, social grounds and grounds of taste. As a Tory I am ashamed that our National Lottery owes its existence to my own party. And I shall stick my neck out in a way no prudent columnist does and make a firm prediction. This lottery must die, and will die. I have enough faith in human rationality to believe that among my countrymen boredom and resentment will grow once the novelty has passed. If a concept is hollow, then in time this must tell. Scratchcards are in trouble already.

Green Shield Stamps established what for a decade seemed an unshakable grip on the popular imagination, but in the end our attention wandered. Air Miles and supermarket loyalty cards, which are the same thing, essentially a scam, will go the same way. Football pools are taking longer to die because they are associated with a real sport. Premium Bonds are languishing. Local authority lotteries flared, flickered and died. The great days of bingo are gone. Where all these nonsenses went, the National Lottery will one day go too.

We have been here before. I am struck by many parallels between late 20th-century Britain and pre-Victorian England. Then too had politics by connection, run by cronies

and funded by glitz. Then too we had waves of mass hysteria. And from the turn of the 18th century until the last draw in 1826 England held a series of state-run lotteries which inspired intermittent bouts of lottery fever and raised huge sums, caused vast excitement and from the very start profoundly troubled thoughtful people.

"Thus," wrote *The London Spy* in 1699, "were all the Fools in Town so busily employed in running up and down from one Lottery or another, that it was as much as London could do to Conjure together such Numbers of Knaves as might Cheat 'em fast

and waded by glitz. Then too we had waves of mass hysteria. And from the turn of the 18th century until the last draw in 1826 England held a series of state-run lotteries which inspired intermittent bouts of lottery fever and raised huge sums, caused vast excitement and from the very start profoundly troubled thoughtful people.

Little has changed since the *Spy* reported three centuries ago. It is an enduring truth of human nature that the sudden disbursement of unearned prizes will attract in equal measure to the joy of the recipients the resentment of everyone else. About the impoverishment of the dupes who play, much has been written. Less is said about the corrosive effect which any systematised scheme for giving things away will always have upon human relations.

At first — money for the prizewinners and the good causes appearing to descend like manna from heaven — there is unbounded pleasure. But gift horses have mouths and soon we are inspecting the teeth. We begin to resent Camelot; we mutter about directors' emoluments; we complain that the prizes are too small — or too large. Certain that we could make better use of a fortune than the fools who are winning, we tut-tut lest a lower-class person, ill-prepared for wealth by temperament or education, should be swamped by millions.

Then we turn our attention to the good causes (430 years ago the prospectus for Elizabeth I's state lottery used the term "Good

Workes"). As the cake stops growing (Sir William Cecil faced the same problem in 1588) the manner of dividing it begins to chafe. Why not more for the East Midlands? Why so much for theatres in Surrey? Soon these disbursements are taken not as good fortune but as a right: people start complaining about the time spent filling in the forms.

In the 16th century you had to include a poem, of which a few examples survive: "From Hastings we come/God send us good speed/ Never a poor fisher town in England/ Of great loth more need". And three centuries before Peter Mandelson and his Dome: "In good hope, poor Greenwich, God send us to remain. / And of some good lotte to have the gain."

These days the bureaucrats make duller demands. And if the application fails, the applicants complain that their charity undoubtedly qualified, and yet it was turned away with no reason given. Unfair! There should be a system of appeals! Next, the Treasury moves in. Was it ever likely that a disbursement to good causes could be defended as providing benefits which were, at the same time, huge and much-needed — and perfectly marginal to the role of the State? As was inevitable from the outset, money is siphoned off to causes which it is possible to argue might otherwise have deserved Treasury funding. Are these not "core" state provision? Is there "additionality"? The argument is incapable of resolution, its major terms being essentially vapid.

All that is certain is the resentment. The charities say the Chancellor is stealing their money. But if the money is there, and the choice is between reseeding a cricket pitch and buying a scanner for a hard-pressed hospital, the cricketers have lost their match before they have got their pads on. In the Commons, what used to be called Heritage Questions and now rejoices in the term "Culture", ought to be renamed Lottery Questions. The session is almost completely dominated by angry squabbles. Each year

of the lottery's short life has generated more rancour than the last.

I hate the rancour, but there's something I hate more: the perversion, by an agent of the State, of the language and imagery of hope and of destiny, to sell a tawdry gambling scheme whose prize is money.

Let me try to avoid high-mindedness. Greed makes the world go round. I know. In one way or another the State will always need to raise revenue by taxing the materialisms of its citizens. But this lottery is so shameful, the materialism so blank and unredeemed. We have raised up before the people a state-fashioned, state-sponsored, state-shielded, state-promoted golden calf — and commissioned our public-service broadcasters to lead us in its weekly worship. Now the BBC and Camelot drag down into the gutter the vocabulary not only of hope but of dreaming, as the *National Lottery Big Ticket Show* — complete with its own TV Dreams scratchcard — tries with increasing desperation to keep hold of our attention.

But don't blame Camelot. It is doing with energy and verve what has to be done if a product whose very centre is a vacuum is to keep selling. Like an addict with his needle, bigger and bigger doses of novelty and fake excitement must be delivered. Flashing lights, changing logos, new cards, new faces, new gimmicks — all to peddle the same old lie. No wonder the churches are jealous.

For a few years more it will work. At the beginning of the 18th century it seemed unstoppable, too.

*The Gazette and Post-Papers* lay by Neglected, and nothing was Pur'd over in the Coffee Houses but the Ticket-Catalogues: No talking of the Jubilee, the want of Current Trade with France, or the Scotch Settlement at Darien. Nothing Buz'd about... but Blank and Benefit. My Son had Five Pound in such a Lottery, but got nothing; my Daughter, says another, had but Five Shillings and got the Twenty Pound Prize...

The journalist Matthew d'Ancona remarked recently that "frivolity is the privilege of the secure, or the refuge of the desperate". If the British State requires an increase in revenues, let us collect this through a system of honest taxation of the incomes of the secure, not a shoddy scheme to pick the pockets of the desperate.

### Matthew Parris

# Bowles encore

SALLY BOWLES lives again. Christopher Isherwood's hedonistic prewar provocateur, glamorised by Liza Minnelli in the film *Cabaret*, is being revived by the novelist Hilary Bailey; and not everyone is terribly pleased. Isherwood (pictured) and his coveting cohorts, W.H. Auden and Stephen Spender, are dead, but permission to revive his character was granted by Don Bachardy, Isherwood's lover and guardian of his literary estate. Bailey explained to him that she had in store for Sally — including an affair with a black American GI. After *Cabaret*: Sally Bowles at War sees the burlesque performer escaping from Germany and continuing her adventures in London.

Sarah Caudwell, whose mother, Jean Ross, was the model for Ms Bowles, is uneasy. "It depends very much on how it is dealt with," she says. "I haven't read it, so I am intrigued to say the least. I gather it will be pure fiction, but if it was seen as a biography of my mother I would be very upset."

The initiative is part of the modern fetish for disinterring classics, including *Heathcliff*, Lin Haire-Sargeant's sequel to *Withering Heights*, and *Scarlett*. Alexandra Ripley's follow-up to  *Gone with the Wind*. An American type has even been commissioned to update *Casablanca*.

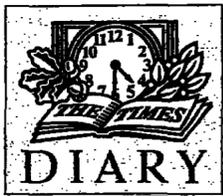
Peter Parker, who is writing a life of Isherwood, has read the book: "I don't know why she



bothered. But as an airport novel, I suppose it is fine." Humphrey Carpenter, biographer of W.H. Auden, avoids such fare: "It shows the novel is dead. This is another attempt to revive the corpse."

"Bachardy liked the idea," Bailey tells me. So will we be presented with a sequel to *Cabaret*? "If only Minnelli were still up to it," she ventures. "But Madonna (pictured) might be good."

● SHOULD attendance levels in the House of Lords increase. I suspect I know why. A 56 inch



television receiver is to be moved into their lordships' house for the duration of the World Cup. Not all peers are fanatical about the people's game. Lord Addington, a rugby-playing Liberal Democrat, says: "I find watching football on TV a great aid to relaxing sleep."

## Playing away

COULD Shazza soon be free of Britain's least appetising houseguest, Gazza? The imbibing and dumped footballer looks set to return to bachelor life, after another attempt at marriage with Sheryl (pictured right), by buying his own house up north. Villagers in Hurworth, a hamlet on the edge of Darlington, have seen Mr G casting an eye over a £300,000 home on the green. His interest is understandable: it overlooks the River

Tees (Paul is a keen fisher), is near the training ground for his club, Middlesbrough, and offers such pleasures as a drawing room and sunroom. Oh, and it is within meandering distance of nine pubs.

● TONY O'REILLY is pondering what to do with his endangered institution. The Independent. O'Reilly kindly stood Lord Longford and me lunch in the House of Lords yesterday. Longford chastised O'Reilly for his casual time-keeping. "I am not surprised he is late — as an Irish international he always waited until the last minute before scoring. Now, as a world figure, he has bought The Independent. I don't know what he is going



to do with that." O'Reilly looked skywards: "Nor do I."

## All shook up

MANHATTAN swanks have named a cocktail after Tony Blair. The Rainbow Room, a rooftop saloon, has created the Blair on the Dog. Dale DeGroff, legendary bartender and creator of the Hemingway Daiquiri, says Blair is a "New Age, spiritual guy" and has mixed a drink to match. "The base is vodka, add orange, cranberry, lemon and more vodka. No Bacardi. That's too bitter for Tony."

● FLUSHED with the news that Whoopi Goldberg is a Celt, the SNP is to launch an appeal to Hollywood stars ready to emerge from the killed closet. It has a list of 1000 who might lighten Sean Connery's burden. Andie MacDowell, Elle Macpherson and Shirley MaLaine can expect a plea from Alex Salmond. "We will take donations from anyone with a Macdonald in their past, or an oil well in their present."

## Train reaction

IAIN BANKS, the dark woodsman, has formed a mutual appreciation society with Shirley



Manson, the frontpiece for Garbage. He drains pins in the same watering holes as Ms Manson (pictured), who enjoys behaving badly on trains. "I was a fan of her first group," says Scotland's bestselling novelist. "Then I found that Ken MacLeod [his old schoolchum and sci-fi author] was friendly with her husband. She says she likes my books, and I think she has done wonders for her band. Its members are even older than me."

JASPER GERARD

# Philip Howard



## Legless with Gazza, or: fantasy Eng. Lit. football

Of course Glenn Hoddles' boys are going to bring home the bacon. Don't be so negative. The lads have everything going for them, from their faith-healer to their English (well, American) junk food exported to France. But just in case, there is still one sport at which England can expect to win the World Cup: literature. So here is a world-beating squad of dead English literati.

1. Samuel Johnson (*Lichfield Rambler*, b. 1709). Sports writers have suggested that Johnson's poor eyesight, melancholia and tendency to ill-health (or hypochondria) make him a risky choice in goal. But his classic loftiness will be crucial against high crosses. His bearlike powers and readiness for jaunts outside the box make him the Grand Slam of English literature. His lexicographical versatility equips Johnson for the new roles in which the goalie cannot handle but must kick a quotation passed back to him.

2. John Milton (*Areopagitica City*, b. 1608). Epic defender, the best since the great midfielder Florentine Dante, he is the English poet whose footballing skills come nearest to the Italian league, where he is an old hand. Young England hackers find his footwork almost impossible to read because of its dense classical and biblical references. Famous for the line, "Legless with Gazza". Accusations that he was of the Devil's party without knowing it in the Cup Final of 1667 (*Paradise lost*) are misplaced. After departure of his old coach, "Ollie" Cromwell, in some danger of losing his head under new management of Chas "the King" Stuart. A survivor.

3. George Orwell (*Aspidochelone Flyers*, b. 1903, captain). A controversial selection. No doubt: he has become a little slow and overweight since his best season, 1984. But his ability to play equally well off both the right and left foot suits him for the role of midfield strategist. Pioneer of defence in depth. "four legs good, two legs bad", and playing to win, not as English gentleman: "Sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence."

4. Alexander Pope (*Twickenham Satirist*, b. 1688). The hard man of the left flank, feared for his biting tackles. This left-footer is the most stylish dribbler in the side. The number 4 shirt has been accused of lack of heart. But his commitment is undoubted: "A little football is a dangerous thing; Lie deep and then sprint sharply for the wing."

5. Rudyard Kipling (*Barrack-Room Ballads*, b. 1865). His preferred position is always straight behind the Empire. Right-footed. The most brilliant player in the squad at short-story bursts, with a surprisingly strong shot. But needs to be substituted during the extended play of a full-length novel.

6. William Shakespeare (*Stratford Swans*, b. 1564). The salient figure in the team, the pivot around whom literary football is played. No other country has anyone to touch him. Shakespeare can switch from defence to attack and from tragedy to comedy, leaving the opposition looking both ways.

7. W.H. Auden (*Angst of Anxiety*, b. 1907). Youngest player in the squad, the one most at home with the contradictions of Post-Modernist football. Cerebral though erratic attacker. Once seen as the boot of a generation, in reality the boot of the younger middle class.

8. Alfred Tennyson (*Lincolnshire Wanderers*, b. 1809). Sometimes his creations down the wing make more poetry than football sense. Liable to blame the coach when his charges fail to score: "Someone had blundered." But a great-hearted player: "Oh yet we trust that somehow good/ Will be the final goal of ill."

9. George Byron (*The Isles of Greece*, b. 1788). Our number 6 shirt is better appreciated on the Continent than in the English Premier League. A one-footed striker, but his love of liberty from tyrannical marking make him a natural selection. Popular with the female fans.

10. John Keats (*Odes to Nightingales*, b. 1795). Another of these young romantic attackers in which the literati are so rich. Rumours of bad blood between him and his partner, Byron, can be put down to the biographical fallacy.

11. Geoffrey Chaucer (*Canterbury Pilgrims*, b. c1343). The grand old man of Eng. Lit. Indispensable in thanks to his work-rate and saucy jokes. An inspiration to the team.





## PAY FOR PRODUCTIVITY

As interest rates rise, an old message becomes a necessary one

Just as most people thought it was safe to assume that the economy was slowing down, the Bank of England yesterday raised interest rates by a quarter of a point. It seemed a quixotic act. The monetary policy committee had kept rates down when all the figures pointed to strong consumer demand. Now that manufacturing is in recession, consumer borrowing is slackening and service sector growth is at a two-year low, why should rates be going up?

The answer lies in the latest Bank of England *Inflation Report*. Published three weeks ago, it predicted that inflation would fall gently, brushing against its target 2½ per cent level only in 1999 and would rise again thereafter. Since then, however, two things have happened to imply worse news for inflation. The pound has slipped further, making a 7 per cent fall in less than two months. And alarmingly high wage growth statistics were released, suggesting that unemployment may have fallen to the level at which inflationary pressures have become irresistible.

Employers are having difficulty finding people with the right skills to fill their vacancies. As a result, wages are being bid up: the April figures showed a 5.6 per cent annual rise in private-sector pay, twice the current rate of inflation. Because of Gordon Brown's determination not to concede much higher public-sector wage increases, the average rate of wage growth in the economy is a little lower, at 4.9 per cent. But, with the gap between the public and private sector widening sharply, he may find his tough position increasingly hard to maintain.

The worry is that there has not been a corresponding rise in productivity. Indeed, productivity in British manufacturing has not improved for two years, while our competitors in Europe and America are achieving annual growth of some 5 per cent. The old British disease seems to be recurring: workers are pricing themselves out of jobs with inflationary pay rises that cannot be justified through increased productivity.

The Chancellor's hope must be that the extra supply of newly trained labour entering the market through the New Deal will help to lessen this inflationary pressure on wages. He has two obstacles, however, to overcome. First is employers' instinctive prejudice against hiring those, whether young or old, who have been out of the labour market for a long time. Secondly, more justified and more serious, is the skills mismatch. How many New Dealers would be qualified to reprogramme computers threatened by the millennium bug or to audit a company's accounts?

The monetary policy committee could have waited a few months to see whether April's wage figures were a blip. But there were risks attached to that strategy too. Once inflation starts to take off, an exchange rate can fall sharply. Then any increase in interest rates is seen by financial markets and overseas investors not as a welcome support for the currency but as a panic measure that makes the pound even less attractive. The currency then slips again, adding to inflationary pressures and necessitating a further tightening of monetary policy.

Britain has had this noxious mix of accelerating inflation, rising interest rates and a falling currency before, and it led to the recession of the early 1990s. Rates rose so high that consumer demand was strangled, unemployment rose sharply and many businesses went bust.

This is not an experience that anyone wants to repeat. The Bank's pre-emptive strike may help to prevent it. But others have a greater responsibility. Yesterday the Confederation of British Industry said it was "very concerned" about the rise, and described it as a fresh blow against exporters. The CBI's members should look to their own actions. From now on, no pay rise should be conceded that is not matched by productivity gains. Only then will British businesses achieve what they and the rest of the country want: lower interest rates and steady growth.

## RED AND CROSS

Short turns on those who only take down her words

On two occasions in the past week, Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, has used public platforms to urge the aid community to end "unbearable" humanitarian appeals. She has argued that these have contributed to a shift in the balance of aid, from long-term development to short-term humanitarian relief, by encouraging pessimism about the former's effectiveness. She has focused on the Disaster Emergency Committee's recent "unnecessary" appeal for southern Sudan: public interest is a limited commodity which must be concentrated where it matters — on the warring Government and rebels — not frittered away on raising unnecessary money.

These are good debatable points. But anyone watching international development questions in the House of Commons on Wednesday might have been forgiven for thinking that the issue was not aid at all but *The Times*. On Monday she had told our political correspondent, on the record, that she intended in a forthcoming speech to liken international Committee of the Red Cross appeals to "999 crews rattling boxes to raise funds when they don't need it to run the ambulances". At the dispatch box on Wednesday Ms Short chose to insult the correspondent for accurately reporting those comments, tacitly admitting their veracity, and then stating that *The Times* was "never" to be believed. This was not so much a debating point as a straightforward misrepresentation of the truth.

Ms Short is perhaps unused to being taken quite so seriously. She is, after all, the least reconstructed Old Labour member of the Cabinet and the least listened to. Her appointment was "token" in its beginnings and belittling in its outcome. While the previous Government had an effective foreign office minister outside the Cabinet, she heads a separate department which has been stripped of any part in the making of foreign policy.

Her last contentious statement (about Montserrat and "golden elephants") saw her department being denounced of responsibility for overseas territories; she must be concerned that allowing her own words to stand might jeopardise her hold even over the department's raison d'être, the co-ordination of aid and development. Most government aid is channelled through NGOs. The department can hardly afford to have at its head someone who is so offhand with them.

Ms Short's message was by no means wholly wrong. The issue in Sudan is access, not aid; and emphasis on humanitarian catastrophe tends to obscure the fact that its causes are usually acts not of God but of man. But since the organisations she was criticising are in large part dependent on private contributions, and thus jealous of their reputation, a public forum may not have been the best one in which to make her statements. While the nuts and bolts of development — tools, education, drinking water — excite little media interest, the opposite is true of humanitarian disasters. Agencies and NGOs need to launch appeals at the time of high-profile crises to make sure they can fund their longer-term work.

Ms Short has wholeheartedly embraced the notion of eradicating world poverty, a cause which emergency aid, by expensively addressing the symptoms of political failure, does little to advance. Her pique at being accurately quoted doubtless reflects her natural frustration at this state of affairs.

## NO NEWS, BAD NEWS

Britons stumble, curse and wonder where *Today* went

Yesterday Britons leapt from their beds and into a blackout. Had the day of the triffids finally come? Might the Queen Mother have died? Or had Diana-conspiracists staged a coup? Jittering news junkies tuned into the *Today* programme and found only music. City types flicked on for *Business Breakfast* and saw *Call My Bluff*. For a few moments, a news stoppage played havoc with a nation's hearts.

Hourly bulletins soon put the situation straight. The truth of the matter was more tedious than dramatic. BBC technicians had mounted a 24-hour strike, taking several of the corporation's flagship news programmes off the air. They were protesting against the BBC's plans to transfer two thirds of the staff from its technical wing into a subsidiary company which would then contract them out commercially.

The corporation hopes to raise cash by making programmes for ITV and other broadcasters. Striking engineers, it seems, do not feel they are sharing fairly in the do not feel they are sharing fairly in the prosperity of a Britain era. So they pulled the plugs, and all over the country sparks flew as household members, still befuddled and half awake, berated each other for retuning the radio or treading on the remote control. A few may have settled down to one of the other delights on offer, to the *Teletubbies* or

the babble of Zoë Ball, or even the pensées of Chris Evans. But many more went into withdrawal. Without a dawn chorus of repeated headlines, of aggressive questions and interrupted answers, how could a nation open its eyes? What else would set them up for the day? Although there are now more commercial independent radio stations than ever before, the traditionalist still relies on the BBC to take stock of events. Their diaries are glued. When it comes to news, it commands for many a virtual monopoly.

Perhaps some householders travelled to work more calmly yesterday morning. Instead of listening to combative broadcasters and uncomfortable interviewees, they had heard the gentler harmonies of Handel. Maybe people who had rarely listened to such music before found themselves appeased by it. And perhaps the prospect of not standing accountable to Mr Paxman in the evening spread a little peace among politicians.

But as George Crabbe well understood, the British "master-passion is the love of news". There was an irony in the fact that a Channel 4 programme, scheduled simultaneously with last night's *Newsnight*, was called *Darkness Before Dawn*. For most people yesterday, no news was no good.

## Tories make their choice on Europe

From Sir George Gardiner

Sir, Mr Ian Taylor, MP, claims that the results of last Sunday's selection meetings to choose Tory candidates for next year's European elections under the PR system show that Mr Hague's line on a single currency is not finding favour (report, June 1).

I speak only from experience of attending the South-East region selection at the London Arena, where we were invited to select six from a shortlist of 12. Your correspondent notes that the Eurosceptic Dan Hannan was the only one to make the six — hardly surprising, since he was the only known Eurosceptic offered to us. Also selected was ex-MP Nirj Deva, whose speech made it quite clear that he too was a Eurosceptic.

James Provan, MEP, topped the list after revealing he had voted against the single currency in the European Parliament. More significantly, every one of the existing MEPs pledged loyalty to Hague's Eurosceptic policy in their speeches. The only one who did not (John Stevens, MEP) was not selected.

This was no slap in the face for the majority of Tory activists who wish to save the pound. Rather it shows how a tightly knit group of highly motivated men and women — in this case the panel of chairmen of European constituency councils drawing up the shortlist — can offer limited choice to a meeting attended by only 1,700 of 106,000 Conservative members in the constituencies of South-East region. Despite that, the meeting made its support for Hague's policy abundantly clear.

Yours etc,  
GEORGE GARDINER  
(Conservative MP, 1974-97),  
601 Frobbisher House,  
Dolphin Square, SW1V 3LW,  
June 1.

From Mr Wayne David, MEP for South Wales Central (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour))

Sir, "Tory MEP hustings reject Hague's hard line" (headline, June 1). "Hague picks new team in move to Right" (headline, June 2). "Dorrell to take up mantle of Tory Left" (headline, June 3).

It is clear that the Euro civil war in the Conservative Party is far from over and will only intensify as pro-European candidates clash with the Eurosceptic Shadow Cabinet over the manifesto for the European election in June next year. Whether it will be possible to determine which Tory party is asking the electorate for their vote remains to be seen.

Yours sincerely,  
WAYNE DAVID  
(Leader, European Parliamentary Labour Party),  
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AA,  
June 3.

From Mr Quentin Langley

Sir, When Stephen Dorrell believed that moving in a Eurosceptic direction would win him the Conservative leadership he alienated his supporters and failed to win new ones. He is alleged to have withdrawn from the leadership race when he realised his total vote would be in single figures.

Now he apparently believes that by spinning another 180 degrees he can challenge William Hague for the leadership (report, June 3). But do we have the slightest reason to suppose that his judgment has improved?

Yours sincerely,  
QUENTIN LANGLEY,  
55 Hill View Court,  
Woking, Surrey GU22 7QW,  
June 3.

From Mr Conor Burns

Sir, The latest opinion polls and the rows in the Conservative Party make dismal reading for all loyal Conservatives (reports, May 28 and 29).

However, they hide the underlying reality. William Hague has radically reformed the Conservative Party, he is an inspiring platform performer, he scores against the Prime Minister in the House of Commons almost every week, and he has begun setting out innovative Conservative proposals across a range of policy areas. Above all, he has given a principled lead on the vexed issue of Europe that is endorsed by the vast majority of party members.

The party's self-appointed grandees must now refrain from replaying the divisions that destroyed the party over recent years. If they do not they could lock the party out of office for a generation. William Hague deserves the loyalty and backing of all Conservatives. When he gets it the public will be able to see that he is offering a genuinely fresh future worthy of their support.

Yours faithfully,  
CONOR BURNS,  
5 Liverpool Street,  
Southampton, Hampshire SO14 6FW.

## Natural sacrifice

From Mr Ian McV. Weston

Sir, I was sorry to see "Britain's only airport ecologist" consenting to execute a wild orchid for a photo opportunity (report and picture, May 26). Can the photographer not kneel down?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN McV. WESTON,  
Cowfold Lodge,  
Cowfold, West Sussex RH13 8DU,  
May 26.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Cold War nuclear 'balance of terror'

From Professor John Spencer

Sir, As Dr Seilla Elworthy suggests, in her admirably rational letter of June 1 (see also letters, May 23 and June 2), the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests require a much more positive and constructive response than condemnation, sanctions and the withdrawal of aid by the West.

In his article on the opposite page, "Holy truth hijacked in the name of hate", William Rees-Mogg refers to the widely held view that during the Cold War the balance of terror helped to prevent a nuclear conflict. He believes this doctrine of nuclear deterrence is well understood in the subcontinent.

However, some commentators have drawn a further lesson from the Cold War and its outcome: that the maintenance of a nuclear balance can be made so expensive by the stronger opponent that it debilitates and ultimately "bankrupts" the weaker. Sanctions, which would affect India and Pakistan differentially, could well make this dangerous game of "beggar my neighbour" more attractive.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SPENCER,  
Hawthorn Cottage,  
Blockley,  
Gloucestershire GL56 9HF,  
June 2.

From Professor Colin S. Gray

Sir, In your leading article, "Nuclear illogic" (May 30), you point out, correctly, that deterrence, even nuclear deterrence, is especially unreliable in the case of two regional powers such as India and Pakistan. Unfortunately,

## Marine fisheries

From the Chairman of the Marine Stewardship Council

Sir, June 5 is United Nations World Environment Day. Its theme, "For life on Earth: save our seas", directly reflects the objectives of the Marine Stewardship Council: this was founded in 1996 as a joint initiative between Unilever and WWF and is now an independent global organisation.

The world's oceans are under threat almost everywhere. Overfishing, industrial fishing and other damaging practices are seriously disrupting the marine ecosystem. This in turn is putting jobs at risk as coastal economies worldwide face ruin.

The seas provide employment and income for 200 million people, besides being a vital source of food. Indeed, in some parts of the world people would starve without fish to eat. There is now a real danger that if steps are not taken urgently to reverse this crisis the marine fishing industry will not survive into the next millennium.

World Environment Day gives us a chance to persuade governments, businesses and consumers of the need to save fish for future generations. The Marine Stewardship Council, by promoting environmentally responsible fishery practices, intends to aid consumers to choose fish only from sustainable sources.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN GUMMER,  
Chairman,  
Marine Stewardship Council,  
119 Altenburg Gardens,  
London SW11 1JQ,  
June 4.

## Police sickness

From Sir Paul Condon,  
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Sir, Mr John Kenny (letter, May 26) is incorrect to imply that the Metropolitan Police Service considers the investigation of sick leave "trivial". As part of our ongoing commitment to effectively managing sickness absence, we are currently considering the circumstances of a very small number of officers who we believe may not be adhering to the regulations. However, this line of investigation does not fall within the remit of CIB3 (report, May 16), whose responsibility it is to proactively investigate serious offences of corruption.

The MPS remains determined to reduce sickness levels, and our policing plan for 1998-99 for the first

## Thackeray on reviews

From Mr F. L. Phillips

Sir, In his report (May 27) on the Thackeray Society's visit to the author's grave in Kensal Green, Philip Howard wrongly attributes to W. M. Thackeray the comment that "a notice in *The Times* would be worth the sale of a thousand extra copies" to an author.

The claim was made in 1866 by Richard Bentley, the prominent publisher, and it referred to a good review of a particular book. *The History of the Times*, Vol 2, records that Lord Clarendon had written to John Thadeus Delane, Editor of *The Times*, that "Bentley says that a favourable notice in *The Times*, however short, would be worth to her the sale of 1,000 copies". The "her" was Emily Eden, who had just had published *The Country*, based on her letters home from the Upper Provinces of India.

Yours faithfully,  
LAWRENCE PHILLIPS,  
2 Drakes Drive,  
Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2SL,  
May 30.

amidst your sound arguments critical of those powers, you revived some fallacies about nuclear deterrence during the Cold War.

First, mutual assured destruction, or MAD, was never policy, policy guidance for strategy, or strategy itself, either in the United States or the USSR.

Second, contrary to your claim, there never was a "switch from war-fighting to deterrence" by either superpower, because "war-fighting" is an approach to deterrence. As the classic literature of 40 years ago put the matter, deterrence could be achieved by punishment of the enemy society or defeat of his forces (war-fighting), or both.

Third, you venture where careful scholars fear to tread when you claim that short-range nuclear weapons "were the most destabilising, because the most likely to be used". Well, yes and no. If by stability you mean a low risk of war occurring — perhaps in large part because of (nuclear) deterrence — that low risk may flow fairly directly from the fact that the prospective use of short-range nuclear weapons is particularly credible. It follows that those weapons tend to stabilise rather than destabilise.

The theology of nuclear strategy needs to be treated with some care.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN S. GRAY  
(Director, Centre for Security Studies),  
Department of Politics,  
University of Hull,  
Hull HU6 7RX,  
c.s.gray@politics.hull.ac.uk  
June 2.

## Schools 'devolution'

From the Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment

Sir, The headline to your report of May 30, "Labour U-turn lets schools opt out", is inaccurate.

What we have announced, in line with our manifesto commitment, is greater devolution of financial responsibility to schools. This will lift the funding fog surrounding school budgets and let governors and heads decide how best to use resources.

The net result of this greater delegation, as David Hart, of the National Association of Headteachers, has acknowledged, is that all schools "will be on a level playing field in the future".

As for "opting out", it will no longer exist when the School Standards and Framework Bill becomes law. LEAs will be responsible for working with all schools in their area in raising standards, there will be new arrangements covering admissions, and all schools will receive fair funding.

The new framework demonstrates the Labour Government's commitment to every school and every pupil to ensure that standards are raised and our children receive the best possible start in life — a good quality education.

Yours,  
STEPHEN BYERS,  
Department for Education and Employment,  
Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street,  
London SW1P 3BT,  
June 1.

## Two wheels good?

From Mr Owen Hilton

Sir, The implementation of Councillor Stephen Hocking's view (letter, June 1) that motorists should be liable for any incident involving a cyclist or a pedestrian "whatever the circumstances, without the need to prove fault" would be both unjust and counterproductive. Such collisions are very often the result of recklessness or inattention on the part of the "victims", and conferring some type of immunity on them will certainly not encourage them to behave intelligently.

Prosecution of cyclists for ignoring traffic regulations, and of pedestrians for jay-walking, will do more to save lives than any amount of liberal hand-wringing.

Yours,  
OWEN HILTON,  
21 Ashburnham Place, SE10 8TZ,  
June 1.

## Modern maxims

From Squadron Leader Jack Arkinstall, RAF (ret'd)

Sir, There is a simple answer to Miss Hilary Kay's problem of the handle of a jug of liquid heated in a microwave oven always finishing at the rear of the oven (letter, June 1); use, as I do, a two-handed cup.

Sincerely,  
JACK ARKINSTALL,  
99 Beach Road,  
Selsey, Chichester,  
West Sussex PO20 0TA,  
June 1.

## From Mr Rob Low

Sir, To Miss Kay's example I would like to add that these days public transport only ever runs dead on time when one is running a half minute late.

Yours faithfully,  
ROB LOW,  
48 Howick Park,  
Monkwearmouth,  
Sunderland SR6 0AQ,  
June 2.

## Stress of rat race in public sector

From Ms Mary Allen

Sir, I have just read your reports on executive stress and opting out of the rat race (June 1, see also article, Business).

During the last few years I have worked on average between 70 and 90 hours a week, often under conditions of considerable pressure. I recently left my job, and I am now feeling more contented than I can remember.

In the course of one evening last week I spoke to an ex-Cabinet minister, an ex-newspaper editor and an ex-media chief, all of whom said they felt happy and rejuvenated by the change in their circumstances. None of them was planning to return to full-time employment.

Their response suggests that priorities are altering at every level of professional life and that, over the longer term, there is likely to be a drain of talent away from large organisations — whether in the private or public sector — towards self-employment.

I was interested that some companies are developing more friendly policies towards their employees; however, it was not clear that these applied to senior managers, nor was there any indication that the public sector was following their example.

During the past ten years successive governments have been obsessed with cutting administrative costs in the public sector, while at the same time placing an ever-heavier emphasis on the demands of accountability, with a resulting increase in workloads. This has led to stressed and demoralised workforces, with greater numbers of people opting out.

By the time I left the Arts Council it had already become noticeably harder to recruit talented people; this trend is unlikely to reverse in the public sector unless the present Government starts to make it a priority to think of public sector employees as people rather than as commodities.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY ALLEN  
(Secretary-General, Arts Council of England, 1994-97; Chief Executive, Royal Opera House, 1997-98),  
79 Aberdeen Road, NS 2XA,  
June 1.

## Word blending

From Dr Alan M. Calver

Sir, With the benefit of many years' exposure and a great deal of cynicism, I can usually translate Anglo-journalism into a terrestrial language.

The term "The first 'black' white wine" in your May 26 report neatly summarised a hundred years of history and viticulture and is fairly easy to decompress into English.

But the next sentence introduced us to "a former non-white winemaker" — a veritable enigma of coding. Could this be someone who used to make red wine (plausible but hardly news-worthy) or a chameleon vintner (worthy a photograph, surely)?

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN CALVER,  
35 Badgers,  
Bishop's Stortford,  
Hertfordshire CM23 4ET,  
May 29.

## 'Diana' book

From Ms Elizabeth Vickers

Sir, Your report, "Therapist heads queue for Diana book tributes" (later editions, June 1), alleges that the idea for my book, *The Way of Gentleness*, was "based" on a dream I had "in which the Princess's body was replaced in hospital with that of a drug addict". This is quite false.

The idea came from a dream in which I saw the Princess playing the central role in Euripides's play *Iphigenia in Tauris*. A rather different scenario and one which more accurately reflects the spirit of the book, which is intended to suggest parallels between the dramatic global reaction to the Princess's death and the evolution of a modern myth.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH VICKERS,  
c/o HarperCollins Publishers Ltd,  
77-85 Fulham Palace Road, W6 8JB,  
June 1.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

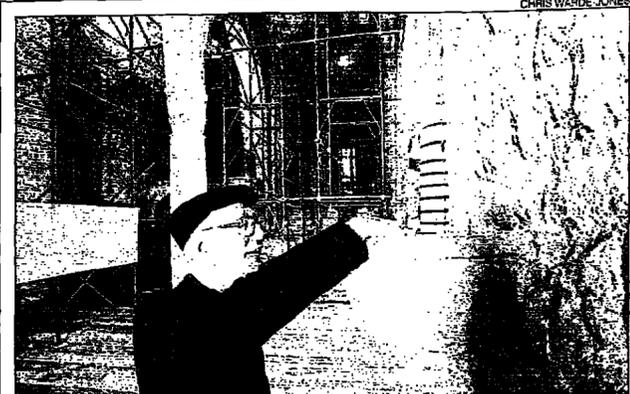


COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 2: The Prince of Wales this morning visited...

wealth Affairs, viewing the facilities and Commonwealth Day...

School news
Hampton School
The following entrance scholarships and exhibitions have been awarded...



Don Giovanni Marchetti, the local priest, in the damaged church of San Silvestro

Prince aids restoration work

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN BEVAGNA, UMBRIA
A REMARKABLE complex of fine Romanesque buildings damaged in last September's earthquake in Umbria is to be restored with British aid and expertise...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.W.S. Aird and Miss S. Guliyanova
The engagement is announced between William, second son of Mr and Mrs Robin S. Aird...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 4: The Princess Royal this morning departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for Switzerland...

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Birthdays today

Miss Moira Anderson, singer, 58; Professor R. Angus Buchanan, founder, Centre for the History of Technology Science and Society...

Memorial service

Mr Michael R. Hoffman
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Michael R. Hoffman, company chairman, was held yesterday at St Peter's, Eaton Square...

Service dinners

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785
Dr Andrew Gordon was the principal guest at a dinner of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785 held last night at the Army and Navy Club...

University news

Dr T.G. Feest (Medicine) has been awarded an honorary chair from August 1. The following have been promoted to reader: Dr F. Bennett (physics), Dr M.A. Beach (electrical & electronic engineering)...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Adam Smith, political economist, Kirkcaldy, Fife, 1723; Frederick Tennison, poet, Louth, 1807; Pancho Villa, revolutionary, San Juan del Rio, 1878; John Maynard Keynes, Baron Keynes, economist, Cambridge, 1883; Dame by Compton-Burnett, novelist, Pinner, Middlesex, 1884; Federico Garcia Lorca, dramatist and poet, Fuente Vaqueros, Spain, 1898.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 4: His Excellency Señor Agustín Espinosa-Lloveras was received in audience by the Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to the Court of St James's...

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Reception

Institute of Actuaries
Mr Duncan Ferguson, President of the Institute of Actuaries, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Staple Inn Hall, London, W.C1, to mark the 150th anniversary of the institution...

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BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BIRTHS
FENTON - On May 29th 1998, to Emily and Simon, a daughter, Hermione Alice...

DEATHS
ALEXANDER - On May 30th 1998 suddenly at Dewsbury District Hospital, Robert Alexander...

DEATHS
CHRISTIE - On June 1st 1998 at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, after a long and courageous struggle with crippling rheumatoid arthritis, Robert Keith...

DEATHS
MAYES - Mary widow of the late Cecil of Eton College died peacefully on June 2nd in the 90th year of her life...

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Advertisement for 'PERSONAL COLUMN' featuring various services like 'THANKSGIVING SERVICES', 'BIRTHDAYS', 'SERVICES', 'TICKETS FOR SALE', 'CORPORATE HOSPITALITY', 'ALL TICKETS!', 'ALL SPORTS CONCERTS THEATRE', and 'FARESAW'.

OBITUARIES

DR CHARLES RYCROFT

Dr Charles Rycroft, psychoanalyst, died on May 24 aged 83. He was born on September 9, 1914.

Within the "impossible" (as Freud described it) profession of psychoanalysis Charles Rycroft was an outstanding, if mercurial, figure. Born into the heart of the English Establishment, he was by nature a radical who in the 1930s saw the menace of Fascism long before most members of his class paid it any heed.

Rycroft's father was Sir Richard Nelson Rycroft. Dr Charles Rycroft was the second son of his second marriage. Although intended for the Army, he chose Cambridge, where he took a first in Economics in Part I and was awarded an Exhibition. In Part II he read History and was then awarded a research studentship. In his post-graduate year he applied for psychoanalytical training.

Ernest Jones, the leading figure in British psychoanalysis at the time, suspected him of being a dilettante but told him that he might be accepted if he qualified in medicine. Rycroft applied to University College Hospital and at the age of 23 he began a double training in medicine and in psychoanalysis.

Once he was doubly qualified, he both practised psychoanalysis and did a variety of administrative jobs for the British Psychoanalytical Society until 1961, acting as scientific secretary for three years. His lucidity was a blessing to more than one of his audience, who often felt that they had understood a paper only after Rycroft had contributed to the discussion.

Through the 1950s he gradually became disillusioned with the infighting and rivalry between the Kleinian and Freudian factions which characterised the British Psychoanalytical Society at the time - despite valiant efforts on the part of his second analyst, Sylvia Payne, to heal the rifts. He began, well before his time, to question the scientific basis of psychoanalysis and its intellectual isolation. He therefore made what he called a "strategic withdrawal" from the society and



Rycroft: questioned the scientific basis of psychoanalysis

concentrated instead on writing reviews and articles for the wider public. Some felt that he did his cause (and that of psychoanalysis) a disservice by this, but Rycroft, a sensitive and shy man, preferred guerrilla warfare to full-scale confrontation. The idea of "Rycroftism" and forming yet another faction was anathema to him.

As a psychoanalyst he avoided jargon and in his theoretical writing always simplified Freud's technical terms and discarded whatever seemed to him inappropriately brought in from sciences such as physics. He related human behaviour to biology and insisted that psychoanalytic thinking was a linguistic discipline, being clinically a search for meaning; he pointed out that Freud's greatest book was entitled *The Interpretation of Dreams*, not *The Explanation of Dreams*.

Rycroft's best-known book, *A Critical Dictionary of Psychoanalysis*, was written before it was planned. During his psychoanalytical training he kept a list of the definitions of technical terms as he met them. So, for the book, he had little more to do than put them in alphabetical order. He readily apprehended the need for structure and could write in clear and elegant English. It made him an excellent book reviewer and respondent to other people's papers and lectures. The short article was his ideal medium. The bibliography of his works consists of more than 160 such pieces and seven books, three of them selections of his short articles.

Rycroft's writings, both his two longer books, *Anxiety and Neurosis* and *The Innocence of Dreams*, and his collections of essays, have the double function of introducing psychoanalytic

ideas to the general public and of re-examining those concepts and modifying them so as to make them less "scientific" and more semantic. Of Rycroft's three volumes of essays, perhaps the finest is *Psychoanalysis and Beyond*. It is an excellent account of recent analytic thought and all its pieces repay rereading. It typifies Rycroft's originality and clarity.

He believed that Freud's greatest contribution was his pointing to two levels in human consciousness, "primary" and "secondary", the latter being rational and the former characterised by metaphor, most vividly seen in dreams. Rycroft argued that the "primary" processes were not primitive, as Freud had thought, but underlay all thinking, especially creativity. Imagination was a concept missing from psychoanalytic theory but was required to bridge the two modes of thinking. Bridges between normal and pathological, between conscious and unconscious, are a recurring theme in Rycroft's writings.

Despite his reticence and awesome erudition he was, when suitably stimulated, a sociable man who enjoyed fun, gossip and intense friendships. As an analyst he helped a large number of distinguished men and women. He was empathic and humane and never retreated behind a Freudian mantle. He had great tolerance of human frailty, while being quick to point out where his patients were deceiving themselves. He strongly believed that people should be allowed to make their own choices and never imposed a rigid number of sessions, length of treatment, or the couch rather than the chair. Unlike many analysts, he did not insist that his patients took their holidays at the same time as himself.

His intellectual fastidiousness, and the fact that he was by temperament a loner, meant that he eschewed religious or political organisations. However, he had strong beliefs in the possibility of amelioration of suffering at both a personal and social level. He had a great respect for the past and for authentic choice. E. M. Forster's "only connect" was his motto. His ability to bring together the inner world of psychoanalysis with the wider sphere of psychotherapy, to trace links between English romantic tradition and the Freudian unconscious, and between the Establishment of his origins and the dissent of his adulthood, are qualities that will be sorely missed.

Rycroft is survived by his second wife and step-daughter and by the son and two daughters of his first marriage.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL JOHN ROTHERHAM

Air Vice-Marshal John Rotherham, CB, CBE, former Director-General (Engineering) RAF, died on May 14 aged 87. He was born on December 28, 1910.



Rotherham: piloting the RAF's technological revolution

JOHNNIE ROTHERHAM enjoyed his finest hour in the 1960s when he piloted the RAF through the electronics revolution. As Air Officer Commanding (AOC) 24 Group, he had the task of updating all technical training, to take account of the printed circuit and transistor - which led in turn to the age of the microchip. Rotherham first had to retrain his trainers at specialist schools, before setting up a series of crash courses, to prepare for the next generation of equipment.

Not only did it all demand intricate planning, but he was under huge pressures over money and timing. This was the decade of the TSR-2 and the Blue Streak missile, and the country was awash with stories of programme delays, cost over-runs and expensive failures. Rotherham's great achievement was to finish the job within his budget and on time, putting the RAF well ahead of British industry as advances in electronics gathered pace.

John Kevitt Rotherham was born at Coventry and went from school at Uppingham to read engineering at Exeter College, Oxford. He rowed for Exeter and also joined the university air squadron. He was then commissioned into the RAF in 1933.

He began his career as a pilot, flying with a fighter squadron and then a bomber squadron before going to the RAF's own School of Aeronautical Engineering at Henlow in 1936. Two years later, he moved to Imperial College London for a 12-month post-graduate course, emerging at the start of the Second World War.

He spent the war in this country, based with a maintenance group at Andover for much of the time, but also

completing a tour at the Ministry of Aircraft Production. In 1947 he left for an exchange posting with the United States Air Force, working on research and development at Wright Patterson Field, Ohio, then returning to a staff job in the Air Ministry. After a course at the Joint Services Staff College in 1951 he was sent to the Middle East, joining 205 Group in the Canal Zone. Then after another tour in the Air Ministry, he was seconded to the Pakistan Air Force in Karachi, where he helped to establish a technical training programme. His success there was widely acknowledged by the Pakistan air force and he always looked back on his tour in Karachi as one of the happiest of his career.

Rotherham was stationed near Bath as AOC of 24 Group in Technical Training Command, 1963-65, then made Senior Technical Staff Officer with Bomber Command. Two years later he started his final appointment as Director-General (Engineering), based in Whitehall at the Ministry of Defence.

It was a difficult time for the armed forces as they faced cut-backs and a withdrawal from east of Suez. While there, however, Rotherham helped to set up the Central Servicing Development Establishment (CSDE) which sought to

streamline aircraft maintenance, liaising with the manufacturers' design teams before the planes came into service.

Appointed CBE in 1960 and CB in 1962, in 1967 he became a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He retired from the RAF in 1969.

Tall, lean and fit, Rotherham was the archetypal strong, silent man. He had a commanding presence and a certain gravitas which inspired respect from those around him. His strengths included his retentive memory and attention to detail - assets not always appreciated by those who erred. His standards were high. He was not an easy man to know, but those who managed to penetrate his reserve discovered a strong sense of humour and companionship.

In retirement, he spent much of his time sailing and fishing - his favourite recreations. But he also did a great deal of voluntary work for the blind, teaching blind boys to sail and helping to produce the talking newspaper at Bostham near Chichester, where he lived for the last 20 years.

His first wife Joan died four years after they were married and Johnnie Rotherham is survived by his second wife Sue, whom he married in 1941, and by a daughter from his first marriage.

AKBAR HYDARI

Akbar Hydari, Indian industrialist, died on May 9 aged 78. He was born on September 15, 1919.

IT WAS partly through the influence of his Swedish mother that Akbar Hydari, newly down from Oxford, was taken on by the Western Indian Match Company (Wimco), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Swedish Match Company, in 1942. He spent the first part of his career as a trainee, prospecting among the forests of southern Asia, in search of the raw material for the firm's chief product.

Hydari did not let his mentors down. Deputy managing director by 1951, he was managing director five years later and by 1964 company chair-

man - a position which he held until two years ago. At the same time he acquired a bulky portfolio of other chairmanships and directorships, including those with the State Bank of India, the Tata Iron and Steel company, ICI India, Glaxo and Metal Box. His position as one of the sub-continent's leading industrialists was confirmed by his election in 1963 as president of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, then 12 years later as president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

A close friend and at one time adviser of the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he played host to both Margaret Thatcher and Harold Macmillan when they visited India. As honorary Swedish Consul-



General in Bombay for many years, he also sat next to the King of Sweden when he and the Queen toured the city. He was decorated by the Swedish and German governments.

But Akbar Hydari was equally well-known as heir to

one of the sub-continent's Muslim dynasties, whose roots were planted by Arab traders visiting India in the 8th century. His grandfather, Sir Akbar Hydari, PC, was Prime Minister of Hyderabad and was described by *The Times* as "a great Indian statesman" on his death in 1942, while his father, Sir M. S. A. Hydari, became Governor of Assam.

Young Akbar was born in Oxford where his father, having graduated from Balliol, had been sitting the entrance exams for the Indian Civil Service. He grew up in a privileged background in India, holding conversations as a small boy with visitors such as Mahatma Gandhi.

Akbar returned to Britain as a boarder at Charterhouse

where he became head of his house and played hockey for the second XI. From there he went up to Queen's College, Oxford, to read modern languages, before starting his career with Wimco.

Despite his Islamic credentials and his own private belief in the after life, Akbar remained a rather secular, non-sectarian Muslim. He strongly opposed the partition of India and supported his father's refusal to move to live in Pakistan - despite intensive pleading from Pakistan's founding father, Mohammed Ali Jinnah. (Jinnah was said to have sunk almost to his knees in making his case).

While his loyalties remained with India, Akbar Hydari retained a great affection for Britain. He spent long holidays here every year, frequenting Lord's during the cricket season and dining out with friends in the clubs of St James's and elsewhere. An articulate conversationalist with great charm, he was a sought-after guest at dinner parties.

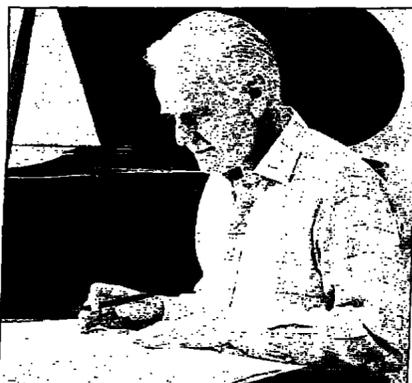
Apart from his love of cricket, the sport at which he personally excelled was shooting. He hunted big game in his younger days and "bagged" more than one tiger in the days when tiger shoots were still allowed.

The one failure of his life, however, was his marriage. He fell in love with an English girl while he was at Oxford. But their marriage was dissolved after a few years and the experience, it was said, made him fearful of further serious commitment.

Akbar Hydari is survived by two sisters.

KENYON EMRYS-ROBERTS

Kenyon Emrys-Roberts, composer, died on May 23 aged 75. He was born on January 16, 1923.



Emrys-Roberts: some of TV's most memorable themes

A MUSICIAN with wide experience of broadcasting, Ken Emrys-Roberts was ideally qualified for the career he eventually chose as a composer for television. In that capacity he wrote music familiar to many thousands of viewers who might not recognise his name. From *Poldark* and *To Serve Them All My Days*, to *The Mill on the Floss* and *Brass*, he made a vital contribution to some of the most popular programmes on television, and was responsible for some of the most memorable TV theme tunes.

Kenyon Emrys-Roberts was born in Penarth, South Wales, in 1923, the sixth and youngest child of Professor Edward Emrys-Roberts. He was educated at Stowe and the Royal College of Music, where he won the Blumenthal Piano Scholarship. Among his tutors were Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gordon Jacob.

Having lost a kidney in his youth, he was excluded from active service in the Second World War, so he joined the Home Guard and BBC Radio. The exigencies of wartime staffing allowed him to be everything from sound mixer to writer and broadcaster. He also conducted the BBC staff chorus for eight years.

For BBC Television he was a producer of music before leaving to join Associated Rediffusion, for which he directed its inaugural broadcast. As director for music programmes he was responsible to Sir John Barbirolli for a

musical output which included the Halk Orchestra every fortnight. When music was dropped from the schedules he became a drama producer and director for two series of *The Living Page*, working on book dramatisations.

As a freelance he directed television comedies, children's programmes and documentaries, before joining the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson as a producer and music adviser. He continued to broadcast, giving more than 300 talks on serious music.

The combination of his love for music and his first-hand experience as a drama director led naturally to his becoming a freelance composer for television. From documentaries and commercials he soon moved to music for television drama, his true vocation. His

theme for *Poldark* won an Ivor Novello Award. Being a perfectionist, he orchestrated and conducted the recordings of all his compositions. Other productions for which he composed included *Reith*, *Fear of God*, *The Circus Complex*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *The Haunting of Cassie Palmer*, *Strangers and Brothers*, *Edge of the Wind*, *Terra Nova*, *Count Dracula*, *Frost in May* and *Brass*.

Kenyon was a witty, gentle, unassuming man who showed respect and consideration to everyone. He was infectious optimism and fascinated by the future, embracing technological progress.

In 1959 he married Jennifer Anne Pettit. He is survived by her, his daughter and two sons, and his beloved Steinway grand.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

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WHL - Debutante, new graduates (50 yrs) 01444 740730 - Contact the World Cup

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WHL - Low cost flights. 0181 676 0951.

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WHL - Chelsea 1910 Low cost flatshare. 0181 676 0951.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

WHL - Flights to 1970. 0181 676 0951.

FARESAVERS

WHL - Flights to 1970. 0181 676 0951.

DELTA WORLDWIDE

WHL - Sydney £463, Perth £463, Bangkok £390, Nairobi £280, New York £281, Melbourne £463, Auckland £609, Bali £459, Johannesburg £336, Los Angeles £328.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

WHL - Jetworld. 01273 278077.

FLIGHTWISE

WHL - Flights to 1970. 01476 560089.

FLIGHTSEEKERS

WHL - Flights to 1970. 0171 663 4425.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHL - Children on dialysis. 0161 272 8433.

JETLINE

WHL - Flights to 1970. 0121 260 1111.

FLIGHTSEATS

WHL - Flights to 1970. 01476 560089.

FLIGHTSEATS

WHL - Flights to 1970. 01476 560089.

SARGENT CANCER CARE FOR CHILDREN

WHL - The young people to whom we give practical help have the will to live and many of them die by reorganising the fund in your life, you will bring us closer to supporting every child with cancer for further information please contact us on 0171 565 5111.

75 is no age to be leaving home.

WHL - Rukba. 0171 481 4000.

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

WHL - Children on dialysis. 0161 272 8433.

BEIJING PROTESTERS MASSACRED

From Catherine Sampson in Beijing and Mary Dejevsky in Hong Kong. The people of Beijing last night continued their heroic but doomed resistance as some of the tanks and heavy artillery that had crushed the student protest movement less than 24 hours before patrolled the capital.

Last night the unofficial death toll had risen above 1,000, with many times that number injured.

Early today the military authorities were quoted on a radio news programme as saying that the capture of Tiananmen Square was "just an initial victory" and predicted a long fight against "dregs of society".

In the suburbs, buses and trucks filled the second consecutive night as Beijing residents manned barricades in a renewed attempt to halt the armed onslaught. There were reports of gunfire on university campuses to the northwest of the city, and sporadic bursts of gunfire were heard near the diplomatic quarter in the centre of Beijing.

ON THIS DAY

June 5, 1989

Marital law was declared in Beijing on May 20 following protests by students. The death toll is said to have been about 2,500 and many thousands were injured.

Witnesses spoke of 17 armoured personnel carriers on fire. Tiananmen itself was occupied by two dozen tanks and armoured personnel carriers in formation and several thousand troops stood guard. Small crowds of people gathered in front of the line of troops on the northeast of the square, and shouted taunts. Earlier in the day, city residents had emerged gingerly from their homes and refugees and stood talking in hushed and bewildered tones.

As rumours spread of hospital wards and

storehouses piled high with bodies, hospitals were besieged by anxious people inquiring about friends and relatives.

According to one account of yesterday morning's massacre, tanks and armoured personnel carriers had driven on to the square, indiscriminately crushing the makeshift tents with students still inside. Another report said that when the students had fled out of the square, holding hands, troops had fired at them, felling the first row of 100, and then the second.

By nightfall, the people of China had still not been told officially of the human cost of the military operations to restore "order and stability" to Beijing. On the main evening news programme, the newscasters wore black, in what was interpreted as an individual gesture.

The only casualties mentioned by the newscast were among troops. The Army was said to have suppressed a "counter-revolutionary riot". According to the report, the troops moved in at 5am and had "completed their task" in half an hour.

The meagre reports by the official media failed to stop horror and anger over the massacre spreading to other Chinese cities, and thousands took to the streets in many places to condemn the Army's action.

NEWS

Rate rise brings shock and fear

The Bank of England raised interest rates in a move that stunned the City and left business angry and fearful. The quarter-point increase in the base rate, to 7.5 per cent, was the sixth since Labour came to power but the first this year.

Home-buyers appeared to have been relieved for the time being as lenders decided against an immediate increase in mortgage rates, but most said that they were considering their position. Pages 1, 14, 25, 29, 33

Digital TV may cut licence fee

Plans to cut the television licence fee for viewers who sign up for multichannel digital services are being considered by Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary. The move would enable the Government to make billions of pounds by selling the frequencies now being used for broadcasting. Page 1

Dome's saucy symbol 8,000-mile game plan

A naked redhead reaching for a star over the windswept Greenwich Meridian has been chosen as the £90,000 symbol of the Millennium Dome. Two football fanatics are preparing to embark on a World Cup odyssey during which they will attend at least one game on every match day of the tournament. Page 11

Holy keepsakes

Archbishops and bishops who attend the Lambeth Conference will be offered a choice of souvenirs including a "mitre and crook" tie and stress balls. Page 1

Paedophile law

A new criminal offence banning paedophiles from applying for jobs involving children is to be introduced by the Home Secretary as part of an effort to protect the young. Page 2

Billie-Jo trial

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins "savagely" beat her with a metal spike, leaving telltale specks of blood across his clothes, a court was told. Page 3

BBC blackout

Strikers blacked out some BBC news and current affairs programmes and threatened further action which could disrupt coverage of the World Cup. Wimbledon and Royal Ascot. Page 5

Retirement alert

Millions of workers - including those who consider themselves to be on comfortable salaries - were warned that they face a drop in income on retirement of more than 50 per cent. Pages 8, 31

Family planning reunites siblings

It's all very well asking the children back home for the weekend, but when there are 11 of them scattered around the globe, it becomes a logistical nightmare. Joe and Norma Mutty managed it, by a combination of planning and good luck. When the brood assembled at their home in Cambridgeshire, it was the first time they had all been together for 25 years. Page 7



Closing-down sale: the last cattle auction at Banbury market was held yesterday. The owners of the Oxfordshire market, which has a history stretching back to the Domesday Book, blamed the closure on BSE and planning problems over a new site

BUSINESS

Pulling ahead: Volkswagen scented victory in the auction of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars when it also agreed to buy the carmaker's sister company, Cosworth, from Vickers for £120 million. Page 29

BCCI dividend: Depositors in the ill-fated Bank of Credit and Commerce International are to receive a larger than expected second dividend. Page 29

Bid approach: Vaux, the brewing-hotels group, saw its shares leap after confirming that it had received a "totally unsolicited" takeover approach. Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 37.6 to 5860.8. The pound rose 48 cents to \$1.6428 and fell 45 pennings to DM2.8977. The pound index fell to 103.5 from 103.6. Page 32

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton and Mark Butcher recorded the highest opening partnership in an Edgbaston Test to take England to 249 for one after losing the toss against South Africa. Page 56

Tennis: Monica Seles set aside her personal troubles to bring down Martina Hingis, her successor as world No. 1, in the semi-finals of the French Open. Page 54

Football: Scotland fly to their training camp in Avignon today with Craig Brown, the manager, believing that the national team has never been better equipped for World Cup success. Page 50

Golf: Mark Hilton, winner of the Berkshire Trophy last month, reached the last eight of the Amateur at Muirfield. Page 50

ARTS

Lots of brass: £11 million of lottery money has gone towards equipping brass bands with new instruments. "What next?" Richard Morrison asks. "Fresh sporrans for Britain's 28,000 Scottish country dancers?" Page 37

Centenary steps: The Birmingham Royal Ballet has marked Dame Ninette de Valois's 100th birthday by reviving her 1940 ballet Prospect Before Us. Page 37

Born liar: The EastEnders star Paul Nicholas portrays Billy Liar on stage, following in the footsteps of Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay. Page 38

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on new albums from Embrace and Gloria Estefan; Caitlin Moran on Spice life after Geri. Page 39

FEATURES

Poetic shopping: Rhyming in the aisles... Is Peter Sanson the first department store poet? Page 21

New clothes: Why the clothing boss Luciano Benetton is backing a new semi-separatist party in Italy. Page 22

The hat fits: Jane Shilling finds herself emboldened by the success of a flirtation with head and air appliances. Page 23

Game on: Raymond Snoddy explains why the pay per view idea is not dead, just resting. Page 42

Images on hold: A fixation with newsreel images is imposing severe limitations on history programmes. Page 43

EDUCATION

New note: A novel approach to school music teaching. Page 45

English-style: How the Japanese created what they imagine is the English experience for pupils planning to visit. Page 45

THE PAPERS

The irony is that while sanctions are imposed for conducting nuclear tests, under the broad interpretation of the law US firms are still able to export items that can be used for military ends, such as long-range missiles with nuclear warheads. Page 43

The Hong Kong Standard

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Preview: There's only one John Motson and his fans turn out to celebrate The Full Monty (BBC1, 10.25pm). Review: A bonding weekend for managers leaves Paul Hoggart unamused. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Pay for productivity: From now on, no pay rise should be conceded that is not matched by productivity gains. Page 25

Red and cross

The issue in Sudan is access, not aid; and emphasis on humanitarian catastrophe tends to obscure the fact that its causes are usually acts of God but of man. Page 25

No news is bad news

There was an irony in the fact that a Channel 4 programme, scheduled simultaneously with Newsnight, was called Darkness Before Dawn. For most people yesterday, no news was not good news. Page 25

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

All right, then, I'll say it: the National Lottery makes me sick. I hate it. I hate it on moral grounds, economic grounds, social grounds and grounds of taste. Page 24

JOHN LLOYD

Who among us wants to have our homes invaded with what Snow memorably calls "the smell of incontinence battling with detergent", hear our children moan about granny's nagging, feel reduced from middle age to resentful childhood by a row? Page 24

PETER RIDDELL

By far the most important political decision of the week, the month, and possibly the year, was taken by a group without any elected politicians on it. Page 14

OBITUARIES

Dr Charles Rycroft, psychoanalyst; Air-Vice Marshal John Rotherham, former Director-General (Engineering) RAF; Akbar Hydari, Indian industrialist; Kenyon Emrys-Roberts, composer. Page 21

LETTERS

Tory choice on Europe: Cold War nuclear deterrence; executive stress; threat to fishing industry; schools "devolution". Page 25

LOTTERY

L. 17, 18, 23, 33, 41. Bonus: 42



TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

CHANGING GUARDS

The new man behind the throne at the Palace

ANNE ROBINSON

Confined to a tiny hotel bedroom in Paris

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,810

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Optical instrument to get by shaping steel initially (9).
6 Piece log (5).
9 Tees, say, daughter got from golf club (5).
10 A daily cuff that keeps the pages in order (5-4).
11 Makes shorts less neat (7).
12 Old artistic work carrying little weight in all-enveloping organisation (7).
13 Met people here, having come through Victoria, say (7,7).
17 Form studies many indications of debt, aware of social divisions (5-9).
21 Plant providing neat cutting (7).
23 Artist has no right to sound surprised (7).
25 Study one coming out of audition to find singer (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20809. A grid of letters with words like SUGARHILL, CHIMNEY, INFULCRUM, NEEDLE, ZEPPELIN, TASTE, HASTY, HARTHORN, BEAN, TRIGGER, HAPPY.

AA INFORMATION

AA information including latest road and weather conditions, weather by fax, world city weather, motoring, car reports by fax, and hours of darkness.

FORECAST

Weather forecast for various regions including Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, and the South of England.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and precipitation for various locations.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations in Britain.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

THE BEST PLACE TO WORK

Advertisement for a company offering a reliable forecast beyond 2001, highlighting their 3-year warranty and national network of trained installers.

A RELIABLE FORECAST BEYOND 2001

Advertisement for a company offering a reliable forecast beyond 2001, highlighting their 3-year warranty and national network of trained installers.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY' and 'WWE battle'.



### 3i reports another year of record returns

By RICHARD MILES

THE venture capitalist 3i produced another set of record results yesterday when it reported a 22.4 per cent return on shareholders' funds during the past year.

Confounding critics of small cap investments, 3i said shareholder funds had increased by 20.3 per cent to £3.49 billion. Pre-tax revenue rose 17.4 per cent to £124 million.

Brian Larcombe, chief executive, said 3i had invested more than £1 billion in a single year for the first time, with the bulk going into UK small and medium-sized enterprises. However, Mr Larcombe gave warning that growth in the UK economy may begin to slow, and that the confidence gap between the manufacturing and services sectors will continue to widen.

During the 12 months to March 31, the venture capitalist invested £908.6 million in nearly 600 British businesses. Of this, approximately £150 million went into technology start-ups, a sector that 3i dominates.

Participation in some of the rail privatisations brought rich rewards, including a £19.6 million profit when Great Western Railways was sold to First Group in March. But there were fewer floatations from the portfolio, reflecting weak sentiment towards smaller company issues.

Expansion on the Continent continued, with the level of investment rising 39 per cent to £121.1 million. However, the £57.4 million annual return from the business was hit by the appreciation of sterling, which resulted in a £28.4 million reduction of that value.

The company, which is structured as an investment trust, said it would pay a final dividend of 6.4p, making a total dividend for the year of 10.3p, an increase of 12 per cent.

Tempus, page 32

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.77	2.59
Austria Sch	21.40	19.74
Belgium Fr	62.96	58.00
Canada \$	1.51	1.35
Cyprus Cyp£	0.857	0.825
Denmark Kr	11.63	10.74
Finland Mk	8.96	8.41
France Fr	10.19	9.41
Germany Dm	3.08	2.86
Greece Dr	217	476
Hong Kong \$	13.56	12.36
Iceland	129	119
Ireland Pt	1.20	1.11
Israel Shk	6.38	5.73
Italy Lit	2030	1930
Japan Yen	241.64	224.11
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlands Gld	3.457	3.162
New Zealand \$	3.26	3.02
Norway Kr	12.81	11.87
Portugal Esc	300.00	282.27
S Africa Rd	9.09	8.13
Spain Pta	227.51	228.72
Sweden Kr	13.52	12.56
Switzerland Fr	2.56	2.34
Turkey Lira	427.84	407.23
USA \$	1.740	1.606

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Sell-off signalled: Rusi Kathoke, finance director of BTG, Ian Harvey, chief executive, and Maurice Martin, chief executive of Torotrak

## Pilkington to shed another 1,500 jobs

By PAUL DURMAN

PILKINGTON, the glass company that is struggling to improve its profitability, is shedding 1,500 jobs on top of the 6,000 job losses that it announced last October.

Of the total, about 900 of the jobs lost are in the UK building products business, where Pilkington has closed or sold 30 of its branches involved in double-glazing, merchandising, laminating and toughening. It has also cut 230 jobs from its three float glass lines at its St Helens headquarters.

Germany will bear the brunt of the job losses over the next year. Pilkington has already closed or sold 18 of its 40

building products branches there and intends to shed most of the remaining 22, with the loss of 1,000 jobs.

The cost of redundancies, disposals and asset write-downs has risen to £225 million, up from an earlier estimate of £194 million. This pushed Pilkington to an annual pre-tax loss of £100 million, a reverse from a £77 million profit in the year to March 1997.

Paulo Scaroni, who took over as chief executive last year, said Pilkington had increased the productivity of its glass manufacturing by 20 per cent and intends to improve it by another 20 per cent over the

next year. But he said: "That sounds great, but it is just enough to be as good as our competitors."

Mr Scaroni is concerned that Pilkington does not make proper use of its economies of scale, reflecting its past as a loose confederation of national companies.

The restructuring of the building products division helped to produce an 18 per cent increase in operating profits to £86 million, on sales of £1.3 billion, a 3 per cent rise at constant exchange rates.

However, profits slumped 38 per cent to £55 million in the £1.2 billion automotive division because of problems in North

America. Moving a Michigan plant by 200 miles was badly handled, with Pilkington finding it difficult to recruit staff. A Texas plant working to provide glass for eight new cars also performed badly.

Pilkington also suffered a collapse in profits in its US replacement glass business, stemming from the merger of two major customers which prompted Pittsburgh Plate Glass to cut its prices.

The City expects Pilkington's profits to recover to about £150 million this year.

It is paying a 3.25p dividend to maintain the total at 5p.

Tempus, page 32

## BTG plans Torotrak demerger for £400m

By CHRIS AVRES

BTG, the company which patents and licenses new technologies, yesterday revealed plans for a possible £400 million demerger of Torotrak, its subsidiary which has already licensed automatic gearbox technology to motor giants such as Ford and Toyota.

The company has ploughed about £12 million into Torotrak, which claims that its fuel-efficient technology could replace 80 per cent of current automatic gearbox systems by 2010. At present the technology is aimed at "sports utility vehicles" such as Range Rovers, many of which are struggling to keep up with US fuel efficiency laws. The flotation will raise about £50 million for Torotrak.

Ian Harvey, chief executive, said: "Torotrak can only reach its full potential if it has independent access to capital markets." BTG will keep a 5 per cent equity stake and a 5 per cent share of revenues in Torotrak.

BTG also yesterday reported deepened pre-tax losses for the year ended March 31 from £2.7 million to nearly £9 million, down 12 per cent from £22.5 million. Losses per share jumped from 3.31p to 10.03p, and a final dividend of 0.924p (0.88p) will be paid on August 7.

Tempus, page 32

## Daley heads US trade mission to Belfast

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA'S Commerce Secretary and 18 top corporate executives begin a three-day trade and investment mission to Northern Ireland this weekend as part of a US drive to cement the peace that may also include a visit by Hillary Clinton and seminars on governance for the province's new assembly.

William Daley will be accompanied to Belfast and Londonderry by executives from

American multinationals such as Boeing, General Electric, Motorola, Pfizer and Pitney Bowes.

There are already about 100 wholly or partly-owned American companies operating in Northern Ireland, making the US easily the largest foreign investor. Nearly half of them are manufacturers employing 12,300 people, or more than 10 per cent of the Province's total manufacturing workforce.

## Report casts doubt on minimum wage

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE minimum wage will not help poor households and is unlikely to reduce greatly the benefits bill, according to a report published yesterday.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies, an economics think-tank, predicted middle-earning households where low-earning women live with employed men would be the biggest winners if the Low Pay Commission's £3.60 recommendation is accepted.

By contrast, the poorest households would see little benefit because few are already in work. As a result, savings to the benefits budget would also be restricted to just 0.9 per cent of the total bill.

The overall impact would be to increase the national wage bill by £2.5 billion. Some 1.5 million employees would benefit with half this number seeing their wages rise by more than £15 a week.

Tempus, page 32

## UK rises in world competitiveness table

BRITAIN has jumped from seventh to fourth place in the world competitiveness rankings, according to a report published today (Alasdair Murray writes).

The World Economic Forum's annual Global Competitiveness Report shows the UK climbing above Canada, Switzerland and New Zealand to rank just behind the United States. The

WEF ranks Singapore and Hong Kong in first and second place, respectively, for the second consecutive year.

The report is likely to be seized upon by Gordon Brown as evidence that government policy is helping to improve the country's competitiveness.

However, a rival competitiveness report produced by the International Institute of Management Development

earlier this year showed the UK being leapfrogged by the Irish Republic as it slipped from eleventh place to twelfth place in the global league. The institute said that sterling's strength had hit Britain's competitiveness.

Other big climbers in the WEF's report include The Netherlands, which rose from twelfth place to sixth place and the Irish Republic which moved

up from sixteenth place to eleventh. Britain scored especially highly in financial services, in which it was ranked in first place out of 53 countries. The UK's institutions were placed second in the table, while infrastructure was placed at seventh. The WEF said that Britain's improved competitiveness was reflected in its strong economic growth rate last year.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Boeing lifted by \$1.4bn Korean order

BOEING has defied the aerospace order crisis, created, in part, by economic troubles in Asia with a \$1.4 billion (£850 million) sale of 27 new planes to Korean Air Lines. Asian carriers, the fastest-growing customers of Boeing and Airbus, had threatened to cancel existing orders but instead KAL has decided to increase its stock of Boeing 737s after it emerged that Boeing has significantly reduced KAL's down payment. Boeing recently acknowledged that some Asian orders may be cancelled after maintaining for months that carriers would weather the storm.

The airlines face a drop in passenger traffic as companies cut back on expenses and slower economic growth reduces the need for business travel. The airlines also face problems convincing banks to lend them money, given the volatility of exchange and interest rates. A Wall Street aerospace analyst said: "Boeing hasn't fully turned the corner. But the order is a sign the Asian market is not flat or dead."

## Strand upsets buyout

STRAND PARTNERS, a niche merchant bank, upset the £215 million management buyout of Capitol Group, the managed guarding company, by making a £6 million tender offer to buy up to 25 per cent of Capitol's shares. Strand bought a 14 per cent stake from Causeway Capital, an investment group. The tender is priced at 190p, 15p a share more than the offer made last month by Cheam, a company owned by the management of Capitol and PhilDrew Ventures, the development capital firm.

## Phytopharm hair boost

PHYTOPHARM, the company seeking to develop medicines from plants, has begun second-phase trials in the UK of a possible treatment for baldness. Phytopharm's cream, which is applied by simply rubbing into the scalp, is derived from a tuber found in Europe. Richard Dixey, the chief executive, said anecdotal accounts of the cream's effect are "pretty impressive" and added that this will now be examined in a year-long study on 70 patients. Interim results are expected during the second quarter of next year.

## Alcatel expands in US

ALCATEL ALSTHOM of France is buying DSC Communications, the US telecoms equipment manufacturer, for \$4.4 billion (£2.68 billion). DSC, which is based in Dallas, will become part of Alcatel Network Systems Inc, Alcatel's American subsidiary, with savings arising from the merger estimated at \$200 million a year. In the Dallas area alone, the combined operations would employ more than 7,000 people. Last year DSC reported annual revenues of approximately \$1.6 billion.

## Klesch in French deal

KLESCH CAPITAL PARTNERS, the investment group run by Gary Klesch, the distressed-debt trader, has bought the businesses and assets of Gerbe, the French hosiery maker. The deal secures the future of Gerbe, which makes and distributes hosiery under its own name and the Christian Dior brand, and safeguards 250 jobs. Klesch recently bought Knickerbox, the British-based underwear chain, which had been in receivership. Mr Klesch said he planned to expand Gerbe internationally.

## Helical Bar increases

HELICAL BAR, the property company, yesterday reported a 40 per cent increase in net asset value to 607p a share in the year to the end of March. The company, which has a portfolio of office, retail and industrial property, made pre-tax profits of £18.5 million compared with £12 million previously. Earnings were 55.6p a share, up from 31.6p. The total dividend is increased to 9p a share from 8p, with a final payout of 5.5p. The shares gained 10p to 680p.

## Kier bids for Bellwinch

KIER GROUP, the construction company, has launched an agreed £13.5 million takeover bid for Bellwinch, the regional housebuilder. Kier is offering 30p a share in cash, a premium of 22.4 per cent over the closing price on May 29, the day before it emerged that Kier had taken a 23.6 per cent stake in Bellwinch. In addition to its holding, Kier has received undertakings to accept the offer in respect of a further 37.3 per cent of Bellwinch. There is a partial share alternative.

## Tesco pensions

TESCO has asked us to point out that the administration charge for reinstatement to its pension scheme is £150 plus VAT. (Business News, June 4). The supermarket chain says that the fee covers only its costs and that it does not make a profit from such charges.

*"We have cashflow problems. Every day cash flows right out of the door."*



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# Waiting for the Bank to open up



**COMMENTARY**  
by our City Editor

It will be six weeks before we can enjoy the inside story of why the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee has decided to strengthen sterling with another turn of the interest rate ratchet. Publication of the minutes of its meeting will reveal how many doves turned into hawks and why.

Could it be that newcomer John Vickers, an academic economist, was such an eloquent advocate of higher rates that he managed to sway his new colleagues, particularly Charles Goodhart who had, only a month ago, been persuaded to move from hawk to dove?

In the absence of firm information, speculation thrives and yesterday's surprise decision inspired an orgy of conjecture. Keeping the minutes under wraps for a month and a half serves no sensible purpose and the practice should be abandoned. They will never be the chosen reading of the masses, but it is important that those who are interested should be able to study the debate that precedes the MPC decisions without having to wait until the ink fades.

The current system means that all we get to accompany news of a quarter-point rise in base rates is the equivalent of tabloid headlines: "Brave Bank acts as soaring pay threatens prices."

Mindful of its main task of

ensuring that the inflation target is met, the MPC aims to curb their generosity. But a move that will hit corporate profits with the double blow of higher money costs at home and a strengthened pound to hinder exports was surely not justified at this stage. Almost unanimously economists were predicting that interest rates would not rise this month. They had examined the raft of statistics from manufacturing, the service sector and the high street and concluded that the economy is slowing down without need of extra brakes.

Even those stern individuals who feared the party had not yet run out of steam veered towards caution. Given the uncertainties as to how the Asian crisis will resolve and the impact it might have on world economies, there was a strong argument for standing back and watching.

But it seems that the members of the MPC have been paying attention as Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have hammered on about the need for wage restraint. Yet close examination of most recent pay

deals will reveal a keen emphasis on productivity. Modern management is not throwing cash willy-nilly at workers but aiming to tie awards into encouraging increased competitiveness. The minimum wage does not do that and it will, inevitably, have an inflationary impact. We will have to wait to learn the MPC's views on that.

## Pensions by force will be a rip-off

According to Harriet Harman, who is in charge of pensions at least until the World Cup, many people do not do anything about starting their own provision because they are afraid of being ripped off by the high charges made by pension providers. That is certainly one factor, deliberately prolonged by

the present Government's higher profile campaign against mis-selling ten years ago.

The new one, not mentioned by the Social Security Secretary, is that people are becoming ever more scared that they will be ripped off by the Government. The more the authorities harp on about people's improvidence, the further we slip down the decline to compulsion.

People are not as stupid as those who seek to guide them seem to think. Many instinctively know that if the stakeholder pension is compulsory, it is almost certain to be a bad deal, as the basic state pension and Serps have been for most fully employed people. As in a private monopoly, if you have no choice, there is no pressure for the supplier to give the best. And while private monopolies can be guided firmly on to the primrose

path, Her Majesty's Treasury cannot be so regulated.

Gordon Brown has already removed the second most important tax privilege of pension funds. Few would bet against him taxing contributions, except for those on low incomes, let alone abolishing the more modest remaining tax breaks.

Pensions are a deeply inflexible and undesirable form of saving from the individual's point of view. And the annuity system will make pensions bought on the stakeholder model even more of a lottery. Without tax breaks, they are a disaster.

Sensible people will therefore ensure that any minimum stakeholder pension contribution becomes the maximum. Indeed, no one should voluntarily take out a private pension contract now unless there is an escape clause in the event of any further loss of

tax breaks. There are plenty of other ways of saving for the future, which may prove a better buy. Bureaucrats want us all to have pensions because they do not trust us, not because saving via pensions is necessarily in our interest.

## IPE casts pebble into the pool

Electricity companies have survived the spread of competition well so far. But storm clouds are gathering. For the old regional electricity companies, now largely US-owned or part of multi-utilities, the worst threat is separation of supply from the distribution wires. This is far from merely being an accounting issue, especially if ownership has to be divorced fast. Remember the fate of British Gas and its shareholders. Owners of the monopoly wires are likely to be squeezed to pay for competition, to make sure that unwanted small customers do not see their bills soaring.

Even worse, in the long run, would be the electricity pool

being dismantled after the current review. National Power and PowerGen, in particular, have played the pool game skilfully to keep profits up when their market share has to shrink and catastrophic overcapacity has been designed into the system.

The best case for retaining the pool is that there is no workable alternative and coal would be even worse off without it. Yesterday, however, the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) put in a paper proposing a completely different "fully competitive" market-based power trading system. Others' failure to grasp the complexity of the pool has long been a source of strength for generators who do. But the IPE, which already runs an unlikely market in gas futures, may not be easy to dislodge.

## Keeping his Boots on

LORD BLYTH made clear yesterday that he will be at Boots for a couple of years yet. Good news for Boots but not so cheering for National Westminster. Lord Alexander retires as its chairman next April and Blyth is his expected successor. But confirmation that Blyth intends to pay for competition, to make sure that unwanted small customers do not see their bills soaring, would be the electricity pool

# Boots loyalty card brings bumper growth in sales

By FRASER NELSON

BOOTS, the high street retailer, yesterday said that its Advantage loyalty card had helped it to generate its best sales growth in eight years.

The company said that its 1,300 chemist shops had sales of £3.58 billion (£3.3 billion) in the year to March 31 — about £60 million of which was extra sales brought by the card.

Lord Blyth of Rowington, chief executive, said that the scheme cost £30 million to implement — a "little more" than expected — but was now delivering enough extra sales to pay for itself. He said: "Don't think for a minute that we are upset about this. We are delighted to have issued eight

million cards, and to have spent a little bit more. This means it has reached break-even earlier than planned."

Boots said that the card now accounts for 39 per cent of over-the-counter sales. It has used information gathered from cards to target 500,000 holders with a new mother-and-baby catalogue.

The news soothed City fears that Boots was giving away too much profit through its cards and could find the scheme going out of control.

Pre-tax profits were £553 million for the year, up from £536 million. A 15.6p final dividend makes 22.3p (20.5p). Lord Blyth said that the

company's cash position was very strong, and hinted that it may make another share buyback within the year. He said: "If you said our balance sheet may not be tax-efficient, that would not be an assumption I would disagree with."

The company said it intended to open 30 Boots superstores this year, which could create 1,500 jobs. Although this is a sharp increase on the 13 superstores opened last year, Lord Blyth emphasised that the company remained "committed to the high street".

Profits from Halfords rose to £34.2 million (£26.8 million), which Lord Blyth attributed to an increase in own-brand stock.

This was despite a slowdown in bicycle sales, in which Halfords is market leader.

Profits from Boots Opticians rose 23 per cent, to £17 million, after rapid expansion in which 31 stores were reconfigured.

Do-It-All made an operating profit of £2.5 million, against a £6.2 million loss last year — when it was shared with WH Smith. It sold 28 stores, and intends to sell a further 11.

Boots shares rose 28½p to 984p yesterday as analysts upgraded next year's profit forecasts from £620 million to £630 million.

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Tempos, page 32

## Goldshield's share price tag is 180p

GOLDSHIELD GROUP, a pharmaceutical marketing company, has priced its shares at 180p, valuing the Croydon firm at £57.9 million, the top end of expectations (Paul Durman writes).

Goldshield will raise £4.4 million after a placing of 2.9 million new shares, but institutional investors are buying also another 4.1 million from existing shareholders — including many private investors.

Ajit Patel, the chairman and chief executive, has sold about £360,000 of shares but still retains a 17.9 per cent stake worth £10.3 million. Kirti Patel, the operations director, owns shares worth £3.9 million and Ken Pelton, a non-executive director, has a £2.2 million stake.

## Advert growth lifts Daily Mail

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

STRONG advertising growth and a decline in newsprint prices helped to lift pre-tax profits at Daily Mail and General Trust by 24 per cent to £81.1 million in the six months to March 31.

Taking out exceptional items, such as profits on property disposals, the underlying pre-tax profit rose 55 per cent from £46.9 million to £72.7 million.

The company said prospects for the rest of the financial year were good "provided the current trading conditions and advertising trends for the group's UK newspapers continued".

Newsprint prices would not, however, have the same effect in the second half. Associated Newspapers'

titles, the Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday and the London Evening Standard, all had circulation increases and advertising revenue rose by 11 per cent against the same period last year.

More than half the titles of Northcliffe Newspapers, the regional group, had reported gains in circulation and advertising was up by about 8 per cent.

Sales rose by 20 per cent to £657.5 million and the interim dividend is rising from 8p from 7p in the first half last year.

Professor Klaus Schwab, who is the president of the World Economic Forum, has been appointed as a non-executive director of the company.

## Laybourn appointed TLG chief

TLG, formerly Thorn Lighting Group, has named David Laybourn as its chief executive, ten months after dismissing Thierry Vaysette from the job (Fraser Nelson writes).

Mr Laybourn, formerly head of GEC-Marconi's sensors division, will take up the position immediately. He will work with Hamish Bryce, who remains executive chairman.

The company said yesterday it is seeking permission for a £22 million share buyback after turning in pre-tax profits of £24.8 million (£21.8 million) for the year to March 31.

Earnings were 7.1p a share (6.8p). A final dividend of 3.1p a share lifts the total to 4.6p (4.3p).

Sometimes it's hard to see the solution to a problem. One company that needed our help was the Kalamazoo Computer Group. Before consulting us they used to operate over 150 conventional photocopiers, fax machines and printers plus the services of an external print bureau. Our solution was to replace these machines with a multi-tasking network based around 15 Canon PageStations and 2 Canon CLC 700s. It meant they could solve all their problems in-house, which alone saved £100,000 over the year. At the same time, facilities such as faxing from screen and document handling and finishing significantly improved productivity. If you're having trouble solving a problem (including the one shown opposite), freephone Canon on 0870 9001066 or visit [www.canon.co.uk/solutions/](http://www.canon.co.uk/solutions/)

If you can't find the solution talk to someone who can

Solutions

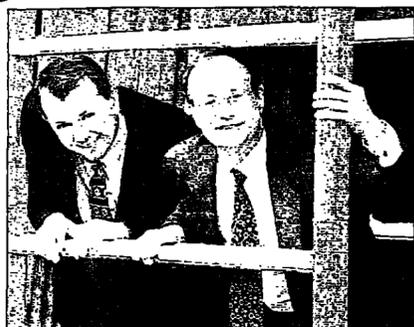
STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Railtrack shares surge on high-speed link news

RAILTRACK continued to build up a head of steam yesterday. It was the best performer among the top 100 companies with a rise of 7.4p to a record high of £13.84 as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, set a target price for the shares of £14.90.



Andrew Brundie, finance director and Russell Bracegridge celebrate Multi Equipment Rental's stock market placard

Dresdner was clearly impressed with this week's results and has raised its profits forecast for the year from £394 million to £425 million.

"Buy" recommendations were also forthcoming from Credit Lyonnais and BT Alex Brown, while Societe Generale urged clients to "accumulate" the shares.

Institutional investors have been encouraged by the group's decision to invest £4.2 billion in phase one of the Channel Tunnel rail link. They hope the move will impress the industry regulator in the forthcoming review of track access charges.

Railtrack has come under fire from critics from the regulator and politicians for its low level of reinvestment in infrastructure to date. The company has pledged to speed up the investment programme.

Railtrack was privatised after the restructuring of British Rail and floated in May 1996 at 40p. It was one of the last Conservative Government's most successful privatisations. By the close of business a further 4.54 million shares had changed hands.

City investors were clearly shocked by the decision of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee to increase base rates to 7.5 per cent. Even so, investors took the news in their stride with a firm start to trading on Wall Street ending the FTSE 100 down almost 77 points at one stage, eventually closing 37.6 lower at 5,808.3.

The banks reacted badly to news of the rate rise. Abbey National fell 18p to £10.64. Lloyds TSB was down 18p to 873.5p, while HSBC, down 4p to £15.57, and Standard Chartered 42p to 711p reflected the overnight setback in Hong Kong.

The engineers have been among the worst hit. They have been complaining for months of a strong currency and of the Asia crisis. The biggest losers yesterday were Dominick Hunter, down 25p at 352p, McKeechne 10p at 552p, Morgan Crucible 8p to 447p, BBA Group 6p to 515p, and BTR 2 1/2p to 194 1/2p.

ly to close just 2p lighter at 85 1/2p. Speculators said the furniture retailer is vulnerable to a bid from Ikea or Kingfisher, 13p off at £10.07.

Carlton Communications climbed 15p to 510p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, raised its recommendation from "accumulate" to "buy". Merrill Lynch also looks favourably on Cadbury

Schweppe, 15p better at 950p, after a meeting between the company and various brokers. Merrill has set a target price for the shares of £10.10.

That old takeover favourite Vaux Group stood out with a leap of 43 1/2p to 345p. The Sunderland pubs and hotel operator said it has received a "totally unsolicited" bid approach. The company said it

has instructed Noble Grosart, its financial adviser, to clarify the other company's intentions. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries up 13 1/2p at 529 1/2p, is known to admire Vaux and once acquired a 5 per cent stake in the company.

Quantia made an encouraging start in first-time dealings after a placing of shares at 124p. The business training specialist opened at 142 1/2p and touched 155 1/2p before closing at 150 1/2p. A total of 2.45 million shares were traded.

There was also demand on the first day of trading for Multi Equipment Rental after a placing of shares at 10p. Shares in the industrial plant hire group, which trades within the M25 area and whose chief executive is Russell Bracegridge, opened at 13p before closing at a peak of 13p as almost 3 million were traded.

Danka Business Systems wants to buyback 34.1 million, or 15 per cent, of its own shares. The price responded with a rise of 6p to 270p. Wiggins Group firm led up to 14 1/2p after placing 11 million shares to raise £1.45 million. William G McCabe, founder and chairman of Nasdaq-quoted CBT Group, is advising the group to develop its regional airports.

Spring Ram touched 17 1/2p before ending 1/2p down at 19p on the back of cautious trading comments. The kitchen and bathroom manufacturer gave warning that order intakes had slowed during April and May.

Plans to raise £80 million by way of a two-for-seven rights issue at 22 1/2p, left Hardy Oil & Gas 15p down at 246 1/2p.

GILT EDGED: The bond market was worst hit by the latest rate rise with opinion clearly of the view that rates had peaked after a period of sublimely economic news.

Losses at the longer end stretched to more than 1 1/2% and may have fallen even further had it not been for a late sell-off in the pound on foreign exchanges. In the futures market the September series of the long gilt rose £0.53 to £109.38, while among conventional issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 put on £0.61 at £110.69.

NEW YORK: Wall Street inched higher despite ongoing worries about Asian weakness and corporate profits. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.98 at 8,807.78.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent stock issues including Ambient Media, Ascol, BTR Red P/B, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Ask Cntrl n/p (350), John Lassy n/p (10), and Silver Shield n/p (1).

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes including RISES, FALLS, and other market movements.

TEMPUS Still catching up

PILKINGTON seems to have been chasing greater efficiencies in production ever since BTR failed to take it over a decade ago. So it is quite extraordinary to learn that when Paulo Scaroni took over as chief executive last year, he found Pilks was still 40 per cent off the pace set by its competitors.

Mr Scaroni, a glass industry veteran, is a reassuring presence. But no sooner has he tackled the problems in the building products division than the group trips up in automo-

the explanations for the £30 million collapse of profits in the American automotive market. Moving a business plan 200 miles west badly wrong when the staff did not want to follow (surprise, surprise) and Pilks found it difficult to find qualified recruits in the booming American economy. In the replacement glass market, its success in winning a larger share of business from the merger of two major customers caused one big rival to start a price war and Pilkington to lose business to independents.

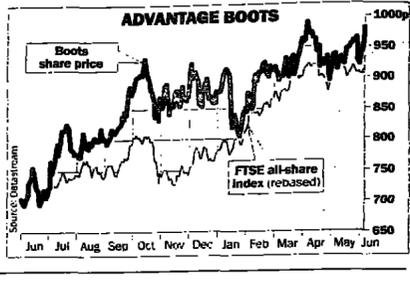
With Pilkington forecast to make more than 8p a share of earnings next year, the shares, down 7p to 135 1/2p yesterday, are on a multiple of about 17. Hardly a compulsive bargain given the accident-prone track record.

Boots

FOR a while, life was looking a little dangerous for Boots. After offering a loyalty card with the most generous giveaways on the high street, it was inundated with shoppers eager to claim their 4 per cent discounts - but who were not chipping in the necessary profits.

Now, the company seems to have taken the matter in hand. The 0.2 point margin drop is a reasonable price to pay for 7.8 per cent sales growth and a free database. If the take-up rate continues to stabilise, its gamble will have paid off.

Meanwhile, Boots has been shaping up to become one of the most attractive stocks in the sector. The company has managed to lift prices by about 3 per cent after introducing a



constant stream of own-label products. In spite of fierce competition from supermarkets, it has continued to gain market share, helped by the Advantage card.

Even though retail conditions are tightening, Boots has proved itself a non-cyclical business and should fare well in any downturn.

BTG

BUYING shares in BTG is a bit like replying to one of those adverts tucked in the back of a glossy magazine that promises unlimited returns on a small investment for risk. Honest, guys?

BTG shares have rocketed to 736 1/2p from just 50 1/2p a few years ago, but a serious valuation of the company remains extremely difficult. BTG buys patents of mainly biotechnology products, waits for the products to come to market, then makes

a killing. This offers all the potential of biotech stocks without any of the risk. This has worked for BTG in the past, with its body-scanning machine patent producing £75 million worth of revenue on a measly £1 million investment. If Torotrak is similarly successful it aims to have 80 per cent of the automatic transmission market by 2010. BTG will get an impressive income even after the subsidiary's demerger.

The risk, though, is still huge. This company's value is mainly based on hope. Yesterday's results were unimpressive, even though they suffered from BTG's heavy investments. The patent business is full of legal difficulties, and the chances of getting a product to market successfully are small. Investors should treat shares in BTG as nothing more than an exciting, but high-risk, portfolio of blue-sky investments.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK, and various oil and metal prices.

GN LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table of grain futures prices including WHEAT, BARLEY, and other agricultural products.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of financial futures prices including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Euro, Three Mth Euroswap, Three Mth ECU, and FTSE 100.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and others.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including AMP Inc, AMR Corp, and various other companies.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life insurance options including various policies and rates.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices including various metals and their derivatives.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates including Prime Money Rates, Sterling Money Rates, and other financial rates.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates including Australia, Argentina, Bahrain, and others.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE trading volumes for various sectors and companies.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Kruggerand, and Platinum.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various terms and currencies.

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ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



# Why the Bank was right to put up interest rates

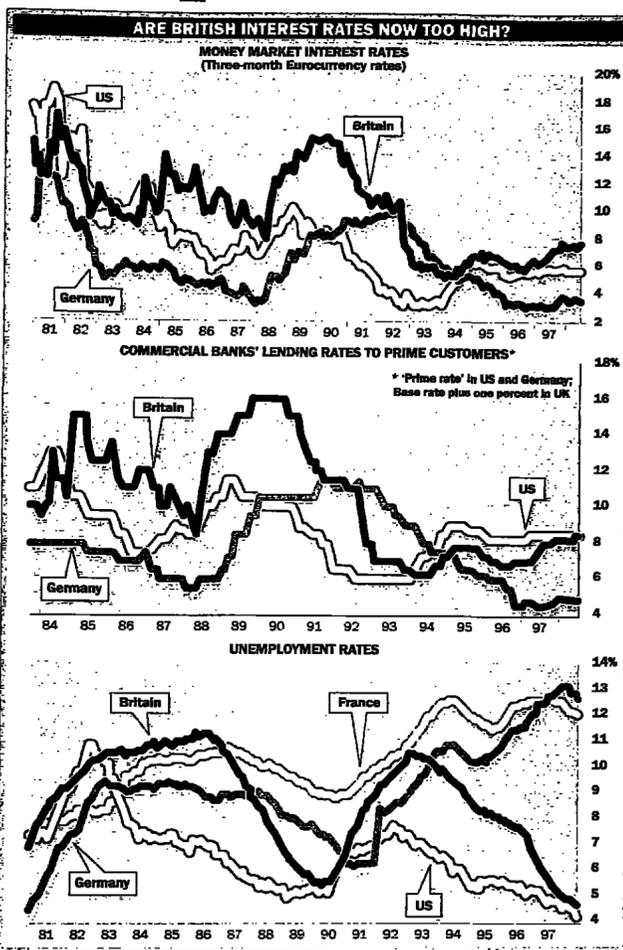
The element of surprise may have put hard-won credibility at risk

Three weeks ago I wrote the first column in my 21-year career as an economic journalist in which I argued that interest rates were definitely too low and needed to be raised. It may seem churlish, therefore, to complain about the unexpected decision to raise interest rates announced yesterday by the Bank of England. Looking purely at the state of the British economy — and doing so in the context of the Bank's uncompromising legal mandate to hit a 2.5 per cent inflation target — there can be little doubt that the Monetary Policy Committee did the right thing.

The one predictable feature of yesterday's decision was the way it was denounced by the Confederation of British Industry. The growing gap between British and German interest rates will also be seized on by unscrupulous euro-boosters as evidence that Britain is suffering from its decision to stay out of economic and monetary union.

Both of these groups should be ignored. The CBI and other business lobbies represent the very people in senior management who have been largely responsible for the rapid acceleration of unit wage costs and hence for the loss of Britain's international competitiveness. Of course it would be nice if the Bank were to let the economy grow faster and, above all, to reduce the present still excessive level of unemployment. But the rapid acceleration of unit wage costs in the past few months suggests that Britain has reached, at least for now, the maximum rate of growth and the minimum level of unemployment compatible with steady inflation. Once unit labour costs and inflation have stabilised again at a somewhat lower level it would be desirable for monetary policy to aim again for a faster growth rate and a lower level of unemployment. But having got as far as Britain has in attaining a combination of low inflation, low unemployment and national monetary independence, it would be folly to risk all these achievements for fear of a modest increase in interest rates.

The criticism that Britain is paying some kind of monetary penalty for staying out of EMU is even more spurious. Even after yesterday's move British interest rates are only marginally above rates in America. This is especially true if we compare the rates charged by banks to their prime customers (see middle chart) or the rates paid by homeowners in Britain's relatively competitive lending markets. The reason interest rates are so much higher in Britain than they are in Germany has more to do with the problems of Germany



than those of Britain. As the bottom chart shows, interest rates are relatively high in Britain and America because unemployment is low and monetary policy therefore needs to exercise some modest restraint. In Germany and France (and most of the rest of Europe) by contrast, unemployment is still very near its postwar peak and shows little evidence of declining. In other words, the gap between British and German interest rates — and that in turn is a function of Europe's economic fragility, not its strength.

But while some of the obvious criticisms of yesterday's rate rise may be invalid, the way the MPC reached its decision does raise some troubling questions. The odd timing of the MPC decision and the very public tergiversations that preceded it are bound to do some damage to the credibility of Britain's new monetary arrangements. They could even indirectly damage the case being made by the French and other European Governments for greater democratic accountability and openness at the new European Central Bank. More seriously, the MPC's evident reluctance to act and the

strange twists of logic used by Eddie George, the Governor, to justify inaction, may detract from the psychological impact of tighter money on consumers, industrialists, wage bargainers and foreign investors. If it is universally assumed that the MPC has now gone as far as it dares and that there is no possibility of any further monetary tightening, the difference between 7.25 per cent and 7.5 per cent is unlikely to have much impact on anyone's behaviour. Consumption will continue booming, shares and house prices will continue rising, wages will continue accelerating, productivity will continue stagnating and industrialists will continue to assume that they will be protected from any competitive damage by a declining pound.

This complacency was obviously unjustified, but it seemed consistent with the very dovish tone of the quarterly *Inflation Report* published by the Bank only two weeks ago. It is true that two alarming developments emerged after the *Inflation Report* was written. First there was a dramatic acceleration of wages, with the annual increase in private sector earnings jumping to 5.6 per

cent, far above the 4.25 per cent believed by the MPC to be consistent with its inflation target. Secondly, there was the continuing slide of sterling, which fell much further and faster than the MPC had assumed in its economic projections. These were the two factors highlighted in yesterday's statement explaining the MPC move.

Yet Mr George and other MPC members who had previously voted against a rate rise gave no hint that they were likely to be swayed by a single month's figures, however disturbing, especially since government statisticians, kept emphasising that the figures might prove aberrational or be revised down. There seemed every excuse for the Bank to wait for another month or two. Yesterday investors were unfavourably comparing the Bank's behaviour with that of the Federal Reserve Board, whose chair-

man, Alan Greenspan, has always been careful to pave the way for important changes in monetary policy with copious, if Delphic, hints. Mr Greenspan's speeches would never give away his future actions or tie the Fed's hands in advance; but his objective has always been to ensure that the markets would not be taken completely by surprise.

Yet total surprise is exactly what the Bank achieved yesterday. Interest rate futures prices in the London money market moved by a full 25 points, implying that dealers had attached a zero probability to a rate increase until it was announced at noon. Markets will now be much more cautious about relying on the economic analysis published in the *Inflation Report* or trusting statements made by the members of the MPC. This decline in credibility was reflected in a plunge of two full points in the price of long-term gilt-edged securities yesterday. The cost of confusing the markets in this way will be borne by long-term borrowers in sterling, including the Treasury itself.

All this, however, would be a small price to pay for getting monetary policy right. Has this now been achieved? The answer depends mainly, as before, on two factors: unit wage costs and sterling. If wage growth in the private sector now begins to slow to a more sustainable pace of about 4 per cent and if sterling stabilises at around its present level, then Britain should be set fair for good growth and further moderate declines in unemployment without triggering any serious inflationary pressures.

Once a more moderate level of unit wage costs has been established for a year or so, it should be possible for interest rates to stabilise at the present level for a year or more. After a long period of stability, the Bank might then start considering interest rate reductions, perhaps towards the end of 1999. It would only be at that point, in this golden scenario, that sterling might decline a bit further, offering a welcome boost to British exporters who in the meantime would have worked to improve their international competitiveness by increasing investment and productivity growth.

There is, however, a less attractive possibility, which may have been aggravated by the Bank's loss of credibility and its delay in making this small move in interest rates. If wages continue to accelerate or if sterling goes on falling sharply, pressure could build for another round of monetary tightening — and that, in turn, could undermine confidence even further, especially if it is seen as coming too late. Britain would then face a traditional spiral of inflation, devaluation and falling confidence.

At present the benign scenario still looks the more likely. But the Bank cannot afford to waste any more of its hard-won anti-inflationary credibility in the months ahead.

In future, *Economic View* will appear on Tuesdays, starting on June 16.

# VW's Cosworth deal puts sector on track for lively competition

Adam Jones analyses the implications as the 'car kaisers' jostle for position

When the British public hear the word "Cosworth", they are likely to think of fluffy dice and Essex boy-racers.

Despite the excellence of its engineering, shown by its relationship with several Formula One racing teams, Cosworth is primarily associated with the souped-up Fords that tore around our roads in the 1980s.

The Cosworth Sierra and Escort, the Scorpio 24 valve, Mass-production cars with a transplanted engine that appeared, like the Incredible Hulk, to be perpetually on the verge of bursting out of its clothing.

The sale of Cosworth to Volkswagen's Audi arm for £120 million, a deal that is conditional on VW winning Rolls-Royce Motor Cars today, may well bracket the brand with some marques that have a less ambiguous gloss.

As befits a member of the Porsche family, Ferdinand Piech, the head of Volkswagen, appears to have a Mr Toad-like fascination with fast cars. VW has recently been linked with some of the great names in racing. Bugatti and Lamborghini, two Italian legends, have both been mentioned as possible acquisitions.

Clearly, the willingness to buy the entirety of Cosworth from Vickers tightens VW's hold on Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Vickers shareholders will vote on the £430 million VW bid this morning.

Although there will be complaints from private shareholders that another specialist in automobile engineering is passing out of British hands, institutional shareholders will probably be glad that a piecemeal sale has been avoided.

Ford, which has had a 30-year relationship with Cosworth, wanted to buy the racing engine business, but there was speculation that it did not want much else.

Conversely, there had been suggestions, fuelled by VW's statement that it is looking at ways of widening its relationship with Cosworth, that the German carmaker might buy only the castings and road engines businesses.

The £120 million offered by VW for the whole of Cosworth looks like a good price. Cosworth, which is based in Northampton and has 1,200 employees, made an operating profit of £5.8 million in 1997, on sales of £116.9 million. Of this turnover, £18.3 million was from Rolls-Royce Motor Cars business — Cosworth engines power the Bentley two-door and used to make all the engines for Rolls.

The business from Rolls should grow once again given VW's desire to use the UK for the replacement engine that it may put in the new Silver Seraph and Bentley Arnage. This would be used if BMW follows through on its threat to withdraw its own engine. It has a V12 in development that could be tweaked at Cosworth and then ultimately built there.

Business with Ford could come to an abrupt halt, however. Ford and Cosworth make Formula One and US IndyCar engines through a joint venture. Their main customer is the Stewart-Ford Formula One team of Jackie Stewart, the motor racing legend. Rubens Barrichello,

to its global motor racing activities." Ford is also the main customer of the Cosworth castings arm, which makes parts for a V8 engine used by Jaguar and has been embarrassed by a lack of other orders and resulting overcapacity.

The purchase of Cosworth could well lead to VW starting its own Formula One team. A VW spokesman played this down yesterday, and a partial sale to Ford may be a more likely option. But the racing community has been buzzing with speculation about Piech's intentions, especially given his urge to compete with the other big German carmakers.

Mercedes-Benz engines power the McLaren team, in which Mika Hakkinen of Finland and David Coulthard are star drivers. BMW also plans a return to Formula One.

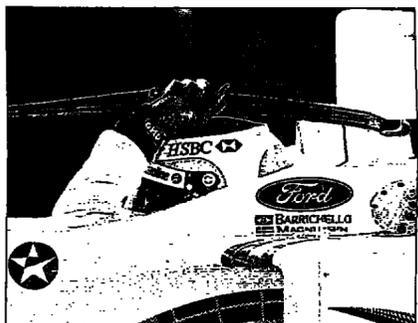
One source close to the Formula One teams said yesterday: "There has been speculation about Volkswagen. Equally, there has been speculation about Honda and Toyota as well."

Sir Colin Chandler, the Vickers chairman, said yesterday that he thought it was likely that VW had plans to get involved with Formula One.

The late 1990s are exciting times for German carmakers, whose vision and brio are taking the industry by the scruff of the neck, particularly in the merger of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler.

With colourful characters such as Herr Piech and Jürgen Schrempp, the boisterous head of Daimler-Benz, the "car kaisers" are often more interesting than the Formula One drivers.

If they take their current hyperactive battles to the track there should be some lively races ahead.



Rubens Barrichello drives a Cosworth-aided Ford

**Informative:**

First Direct Base Rate

With effect from 4 June 1998, First Direct Base Rate has increased by 0.25% from 7.25% p.a. to 7.50% p.a.

HomeOwner Reserve

With effect from 4 June 1998, the HomeOwner Reserve interest rate has been increased by 0.25% to 13.75% p.a. (APR 14.4%)

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## Cell note

THE publication of the Department of Trade and Industry's list of banned company directors promises to reunite us with an old City hand. The whereabouts of Andrew Hill Bingham had been a bit of a mystery. Now the DTI has located him, incorrectly, as a check call discoverer, as an inmate at Her Majesty's Prison, Bristol.

"He never has been, by the look of it — not under that name anyway," claims the records office. For Bingham was formerly a senior partner and tax expert at Theodore Goddard



Hoffman: chose own service

until he fled to Switzerland with an unspecified amount of clients' money. He went down for six years in 1990, after a kerfuffle in Bath involving a knife, a gas dispenser and several police officers.

Truly a nasty piece of work, which may be why no one at Theodore Goddard, about as pukka a City firm as you can get, has much to say about him today. Or they may still be in denial, trying to forget the former bad penny. Funnily enough, Bingham last popped up as an old friend of Miss Whiplash, the "sex therapist" whom Norman Lamont had to evict from his home. Strange but true.

MIKE HOFFMAN, former chief executive of Thames Water who died last month, had his own exuberant way of doing things right to the end. He even arranged his memorial service at St Peter's, Eaton Square, yesterday. This started with a psalm — the one used at Hoffman's school when pupils were punished by being made to write out lines, so he knew it by heart. The last hymn, to be sung whatever the season, was Ding Dong Merrily on High.

**Entrée**  
THE interest rate rise was quickly



flagged on the Bank of England's excellent website yesterday. But the site somehow lacks the personal touch one has come to expect from computers today. Perhaps Eddie George should follow the example of Joseph Yam, chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. His smiling cybernetic idolon is depicted on the authority's website. Suddenly the figure's arm moves, as he beckons the onlooker to enter, for all the world like a waiter showing you to your table. Rather reassuring.

**Cashing in**  
TOMORROW sees the much-hyped investment conference Invest98 in Islington, featuring financial titans

such as Richard Wilson, the actor who plays Victor Meldrew, a woman who used to be Warren Buffett's daughter-in-law, Trevor McDonald, the ITN newsreader, and for all I know, someone who once stood in the same taxi queue as Eddie George. Current ticket demand suggests there are nine men going for every woman. And I am also told that some of the women are not there for investment advice alone but because of the number of well-heeled men gathered under one roof. This sounds deplorably sexist, I know, but I have it from a very good source.

I HAVE some good news for staff at Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette who relocated to the American investment bank's new headquarters in Old Broad Street. As I reported, there had been talk of their being banned from the new Corney & Barrow wine bar which opens on the site in September. It seems the authorities have relented. DJL people will be allowed in after all.

**Pig sick**  
AND another old friend re-emerges. Welcome back to Cedric Brown, for a while the unacceptable face of British Gas, who has made the long journey from the Morecambe Bay gasfield to the wastes of Kazakhstan and the burgeoning oil industry there. He is to be the chairman of Atlantic Caspian Resources once the AIM-listed



Cedric Brown's alter ego

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Table of stock prices for INVESTMENT TRUSTS and ENGINEERING, VEHICLES.

Table of stock prices for FOOD MANUFACTURERS and HEALTHCARE.

Table of stock prices for HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT and INSURANCE.

Table of stock prices for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Table of stock prices for RETAILERS, FOOD, and RETAILERS, GENERAL.

Table of stock prices for MEDIA.

Table of stock prices for PHARMACEUTICALS.

Table of stock prices for PRINTING & PAPER.

Table of stock prices for MINING.

Table of stock prices for BRITISH FUNDS.

Table of stock prices for WATER.

Table of stock prices for OTHER FINANCIAL.

Table of stock prices for SUPPORT SERVICES.

Table of stock prices for PROPERTY.

Table of stock prices for TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Table of stock prices for TRANSPORT.

Table of stock prices for RETAILERS, GENERAL.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'South may on a' and 'Moss Bros' logo.

Moss Bros logo and contact information.

# Southern Electric may spend £1bn on acquisitions

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHERN Electric, the only independent regional electricity company, could spend up to £1 billion to expand its business in an expected shake-up of the power industry.

Jim Forbes, chief executive, said the company would be interested in buying any power stations that the leading generators could be forced to sell. However, that idea is looking increasingly unlikely as the Government nears a deal to preserve the coal industry.

The company is also likely to enter the race to buy operations of other electricity companies once the separation of distribution and supply is allowed.

Southern Electric, which has 22 million customers, is one of the largest regional companies and was tipped in a Coopers & Lybrand report this week as one of only a handful of businesses likely to survive a massive wave of consolidation after competition in the household market. Mr Forbes said the company, which has a marketing alliance with Argos, was committed to being a strong player in power supply. He said it now had 200,000 gas customers.

With a gearing of 41 per cent, Southern Electric has

room to buy businesses or deliver substantial returns to shareholders over the medium term.

If it chooses large purchases, the company would be able to push its resources up to £1 billion, analysts believe.

The City expects a buyback of about 10 per cent of the shares if Southern does not do a substantial deal. Southern is likely to keep its sights fixed on the UK rather than overseas investments. Mr Forbes said yesterday that although the company kept an eye on



Forbes: domestic focus

international developments, the overseas markets came with their own difficulties. The chief executive said that despite the growing interest in the US, where the power industry is deregulating, it was not always easy to enter that market.

Southern is keen to develop its generation business, which last year increased profits by 15.5 per cent, but is currently stymied by a government moratorium on new construction of gas-fired power stations. The Government has imposed the ban in an attempt to give the coal industry some breathing space.

Operating profits from power generation were £41.8 million. Southern has ventured into generation through one-off independent power plants and through Sabre Power, a joint venture with British Energy, the nuclear power supplier, which aims to build gas-fired power stations.

In the year to March 31 Southern saw a dip in pre-tax profits. The company made £248.7 million compared with £255.5 million in the previous year.

Earnings per share before exceptional items rose to 39.4p from 37.5p. The total dividend was raised 10.2 per cent to 23.7p, with the final payment of 16.6p due on October 6.



Bowled over: John Young, chairman of the Young's brewery, celebrates a 26.6 per cent rise in operating profits to £6 million on sales up 4 per cent to £79 million. At the pre-tax level, profits rose 4.7 per cent to £5.7 million. Mr Young said that the thirst for exotic bottled beers, such as Damselify, had helped the South London brewer.

## Powell Duffryn holds dividend

By MARTIN BARROW

POWELL DUFFRYN, the ports and engineering group undergoing restructuring, has held the total dividend for the fourth successive year.

The company is paying an unchanged dividend of 25p a share for the year to the end of March after reporting a 13 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £49.7 million.

The dividend is again held despite a significant improvement in the balance sheet. The company ended the year with net cash of £26.6 million, from a £31.8 million debt in the previous year.

A disposal programme, which began in 1996, is almost complete, realising a book value of around £100 million. Attention is now expected to turn to core businesses.

The ports and shipping services division, which takes in the ports of Teesport, Hartlepool and Humberside, lifted operating profits to £31.8 million, from £27.5 million, on turnover that fell to £151.4 million, from £153 million. Volumes suffered in the final quarter, with the strength of sterling affecting steel export volumes.

Profits from engineering

were little changed at £19.3 million, against £19.1 million, reflecting the adverse impact of the strong pound.

Group pre-tax profits, after further exceptional charges of £11.6 million, were £38.1 million, up from £29.8 million. Earnings were 30.1p a share, up from 15.3p. The final dividend is unchanged at 17p. The shares fell 7½p to 602½p yesterday.

### Martin in cash call for £5.5m

Martin International, the lingerie and nightwear company whose largest customer is Marks & Spencer, is raising £5.5 million by a two-for-five rights issue at 36p a share to expand its production capacity in the UK and overseas.

### Electric sale

Bowthorpe, the international electronics group, has acquired Conversion Equipment Corporation, of California, for \$13.754 million (£8.35 million), which includes a \$1.375 million payment to the vendors to secure a commitment not to compete.

### Food buy-in

Saint Martin Food Products, a food manufacturing business based in West London, has been acquired in a management buy-in for £21 million. Funding was provided by 3i and Paul Fieldhouse, formerly chief executive of Hillsdown's UK chilled food division, is chief executive.

### Sales bounce

Airsprung, the furniture group, raised annual pre-tax profits to £6.92 million, from £6.86 million, on sales of £92.1 million (£88.6 million). The shares fell 10p to 162½p.

### Rocking cafés

Shares in Luminar rose 72½p to 917½p, a new high, after the restaurants and night clubs company reported pre-tax profits of £4.9 million, up from £3.7 million, in the year to March 1. At the year-end, it had 51 UK outlets after 14 openings, including 24 Chicago Rock Cafés.

## Hardy Oil aims to raise £79m with rights issue

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Hardy Oil and Gas fell 10p to 251½p after the group revealed a £79 million rights issue and announced a venture with Halliburton, the American oil and gas services group, which is aimed at reducing the costs of oil recovery for offshore discoveries.

Terms of the cash call are two new shares for each seven held at 22½p. Hardy said that its commercial oil and gas reserves stand at record levels and that the company is investing in a potential five-fold increase in production volumes over the next five years. The proceeds of the rights issue will provide additional funding necessary. Earlier this year Hardy announced a huge oil find in Pakistan.

During 1998, Hardy expects to invest £95 million in exploration, appraisal of discoveries and field developments. In the five years to the end of 2002, expenditure on developments is expected to exceed £300 million.

However, Hardy said that the average oil price it had realised in the four months to April 30 had fallen to £8.15 a barrel from £10.05 for the whole of 1997. Hardy said: "Were the oil price to remain at its current level throughout the rest of the year this would inevitably have an adverse impact on the revenue of the group."

Hardy said it intends to declare a dividend of 1p a share for 1998, unchanged from 1997.

The venture with Halliburton will allow Hardy to use production modules fixed to the sea bed.

## Personal Number rings up first profit

By CHRIS AYRES

THE Personal Number Company, the provider of "telephone numbers for life", yesterday said it had moved into profitability for the first time since its flotation on the Alternative Investment Market in 1996.

Personal Number made a pre-tax profit for the six months to March 31 of £18,000, and pre-tax losses for the year to March fell from £834,000 to £304,000. Sales rose 3.2 per cent, from £2.7 million to £2.8 million, and losses per share fell from 10p to 1.96p. The company said it had made an

exceptional charge of £95,000 because it had underestimated its cost of sales for 1997.

The company, whose shares have fallen from 103½p shortly after floating to a recent low of 29p, said that a supply agreement with Vodafone, the British mobile phone company, lowered the initial cost of buying a personal number for the public. Shares in the company rose 2p to 30½p yesterday.

Personal Number said 73 per cent of its revenues were recurring, and that it had connected 28,000 numbers at the year end.

## La Senza gives go-ahead for Xunely's £1.3m bid

By OUR CITY STAFF

LA SENZA, the lingerie retailer, yesterday agreed to a £1.33 million bid from Xunely, a company owned by Theo Paphitis, the chairman of Millwall Football Club and a failed bidder for Knickerbox. Mr Paphitis owns Rymans, the stationer, and Contessa, the clothing company.

Shares in La Senza, however, remained at their all-time low of 9½p, against a high of 160p reached shortly after the 150p flotation in 1996. Mr Paphitis is offering £1 for the 60 per cent of La Senza held by Suzy Shier, the North American retailer, and 10p a share for the remaining 40 per cent held by investors in the AIM-listed company. Suzy Shier said it wanted to protect the integrity of La



Deal agreed: Laurence Lewin, La Senza deputy chairman

Senza's trading name and believes this can be achieved by the sale to Xunely, which, through its association with other successful retailing operations, has the skills and experience to turn La Senza

into profits over time". Suzy Shier has given guarantees for finance leases of La Senza amounting to £1.9 million.

Mr Paphitis owns Rymans and Contessa through his Chancerealm company.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

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**THEATRE**  
Wicked fun  
in a revival  
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THE TIMES  
**ARTS**

**POP ALBUMS**  
Could Heather  
Nava finally  
make it big?  
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**A**nother British triumph! As the showbiz trade paper *Variety* mysteriously puts it: "Teensy Televizables: Trounce Big Reptile In Toy Biz". Translated into English, this means that toys based on the cult BBC-TV show for toddlers and stoned undergraduates have gone on sale in New York shops at the same time as merchandise based on Hollywood's new blockbuster, *Godzilla* — and that our little furry world-beaters are actually outselling *Godzilla* memorabilia.

Is this important? Readers, the crazy answer is yes. Merchandising is not just a sideline of showbiz today; it is the main event. And, as we saw this week, that rule applies as much to Agatha Christie's *Miss Marple* (can't wait for the T-shirt) as it does to the latest Disney epic.

The logic is simple. If you sell a kid a ticket to your movie, sure, you make a few bob. But if you lure him, and millions like him, into forking out £14 for the album, and another £20 for junk bearing the film's logo, you can measure your profit in Caribbean yachts.

It's a puzzling aspect of modern

**Seen the show, bought the key-ring**

culture, isn't it? As I sit here in the cubicle of debris that we call our family kitchen, surveying a Chessington Zoo pencil-case, an "Arsenal, Pride of London" mug, a Thomas the Tank Engine satchel, a *Titanic* eggcup, assorted Boyzone posters, an "Official World Cup 98" packet of Coco Shreddies, a discarded Batman umbrella (two spokes broken), and (most oddly) a bottle labelled "Bart Simpson Shower Gel", I ask myself: "Who on earth is feeble-minded enough to buy this rubbish?"

Then I catch sight of myself in our special *Beauty and the Beast* mirror. Singlehandedly I must have bankrolled at least three Caribbean yachts already.

**H**ere's a brain-teaser. Which profession has profited most from the National Lottery? Directors of Camelot excluded, obviously. Architects? Yes, some of them have

undoubtedly done very nicely out of all those theatre renovations. So have Daft Millennium Ideas R Us — ie, the army of trendy design gurus hired to inject "imagination" into the Greenwich Dome. So have the building trade, of course, and those innumerable ranks of shad-dow "consultants" who have pocketed millions for "feasibility studies". It's been Christmas every day since 1995 for them.

But let me suggest another bunch of winners. I refer to manufacturers of musical instruments. For the extraordinary fact is that the Arts Council has now awarded a staggering £11 million of lottery money to 281 brass bands for the purchase of new instruments.

Don't get me wrong. I am sure that the £43,650 awarded to the Barnetby Silver Band will transform musical life in North Lincolnshire, just as the £22,809 showered upon the Concord Drum and Bugle Corps of Sheffield will lift their fanfares to exquisite heights.



**WEEK IN THE ARTS**  
RICHARD MORRISON

with the best of them. I am sure that the £43,650 awarded to the Barnetby Silver Band will transform musical life in North Lincolnshire, just as the £22,809 showered upon the Concord Drum and Bugle Corps of Sheffield will lift their fanfares to exquisite heights.

But £11 million to equip practically every spare-time tuba-puffer in the land with a shiny new lethal weapon? When half the professional orchestras in Britain are going bankrupt? I am all for supporting amateur music-making, but this strikes me as barney. Whatever happened to the noble art of scrimping and saving to buy yourself that longed-for new euphonium? These days, it has all become a bit too easy for certain favoured amateurs, hasn't it?

What next? Will the lottery buy a set of new irons for every weekend golfer? Or issue fresh sporrans all round for the 28,000 people who admit that they indulge regularly in Scottish country dancing?

How ironic that these latest handouts to brass bands coincide with the arrival in the National Theatre of *Brassed Off*, the stage play based on the heartwarming British film about a threatened Yorkshire brass band. If you

haven't seen the play or film, I recommend both. I don't think I am giving too much away (only the entire plot) if I reveal that the colliery band in the story is saved from extinction when a shapely lass from the Coal Board has an attack of conscience and donates her own redundancy payoff to the band itself.

How quaint. Today, of course, she would simply fill in a few forms and wait for a £40,000 cheque to arrive from the Arts Council. Of course, this wouldn't make much of a screenplay. But I daresay you could get a lottery grant to film it.

**B**izarre spectacle of the week? That accolade must be bestowed upon the wrinkly rock "legends" who gathered in Washington DC to implore the US Congress to do something about impertinent "imposters" who use their names and songs.

The veteran groovers are getting their way, too. Gullible congressmen, who are either disgracefully under-employed or hopelessly starstruck, are redrafting copyright legislation to ban all imitation rock acts. One congressman, Dennis Kucinich, described the existence of rock impersonators as "a terrible injustice".

Am I missing something here? Has the US Government already eradicated all poverty, illiteracy and crime from the Land of the Free? I don't know which are the saddest people in this story — the toning rock acts desperately clinging to fame, the mediocre nobodies whose only hope of showbiz survival is to rip off better talents; or the politicians so obsessed with publicity that they grab every opportunity to canoodle with has-been celebs.

Talking of which, how long before our own dear Government comes up with the same idea? About 12 seconds, I should think. I fear that the days of such cheery and harmless impersonators as No Way Sis, Bjorn Again and the Bootleg Beatles may be numbered.

**Tribute of the century**

**T**omorrow Dame Ninette de Valois, the founder of the Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Royal Ballet School, is 100 years old. The organisations she gave birth to will celebrate the centenary. But whatever presents she receives, and no doubt there will be many, nothing is likely to better the wonderful gift Birmingham Royal Ballet has given her.

On Wednesday night, at the Birmingham Hippodrome, a de Valois ballet not seen for almost 50 years was brought to life once again and it is a revival to be treasured. *The Prospect Before Us*, which she created in 1940 in the dark days of war, is sheer delight from start to finish, a perfect English comic ballet.

*Prospect*, inspired by the drawings of Thomas Rowlandson, tells the story of two rival theatre managers in 1780s London who fight over a troupe of dancers. The story is not all that important — although it happens to be true — but the characters and the context are. It is as if de Valois found in Rowlandson's audacious cartoons the very essence

**DANCE**  
*De Valois Centenary*  
Birmingham

of the bawdy theatrical society they mock. The manners, the social codes, the fashion, even the physical language of the day had an immediacy for her, and she wanted to capture the vibrancy of that bygone world in dance.

*Prospect* may be period in both its setting and its execution, but it feels remarkably fresh. Mr Taylor, manager of the King's Theatre, and Mr O'Reilly, manager of the Pantheon, are wonderfully vivid comic creations. So, too, are Noverre, Didelot and Vestris (the men have all the best parts) and the interplay between them is a celebration of frivolity and affectionate satire.

David Bintley, who provided the choreography wherever there were gaps in the original, has done a great service to British ballet. Jean Bedells no less so, for it was she, one of

the Urchins in the original 1940 production, who actually reconstructed *Prospect*, piecing it together from dancers' memories and old photographs. The choreography — and it is impossible to tell Bintley from de Valois — is felicitous and fleet of foot, the upper bodies decoratively expressive, the humour never flagging, and the whole laced together with an intricate grace.

The score, Constant Lambert's arrangement of music by the 18th-century English composer William Boyce, is full of bright, light-stepping charm and was well played by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, an excellent form under Paul Murphy's baton. A first-rate cast captured the work's gentle caricature without overplaying it.

Michael O'Hare, as the clown-like O'Reilly, was outstanding, especially in his final inebriated solo, a bottle in his hand and a manic grin on his face. Joseph Cipolla (Didelot) and David Justin (Vestris) were vanity and disdain personified.



Karina Hernandez and David Justin (centre) in *The Prospect Before Us*, created by Ninette de Valois in 1940 and newly revived in her honour

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**THE ADVANCE** buzz on this widely spread co-production of Monteverdi's opera centred on the British debut of the American choreographer Trisha Brown, but in the event another British debut made rather greater impact, that of René Jacobs and his *Concerto Vocale*. The playing was simply superb, with the instrumentalists distributed between a barely sunken pit at the centre and two groups in the wings on either side; the antiphonal and echo effects, so important in this piece, were magically achieved.

And the sheer variety of sound — less expert period players can sometimes produce an agreeable homogeneous mush — kept you on the edge of your seat. Every one of the 29 listed players seemed a virtuoso (Mara Galassi's harp especially seductive) and the clarity, expressiveness and tonal beauty of the playing set, I think, new standards in this field.

If the ear was constantly ravished, the eye was only intermittently so. The opening image could scarcely have been more spectacular — a flying dancer striking Tiepolo poses against a gauzy, circular blue background (her fast somersaults, though, perhaps too redolent of the Big Top). The circle was a constant in Roland Aeschlimann's abstract design, with two neatly managed eclipses, all set in a white box that was manipulated into black for Hades. There was a slightly clinical look to it all, as there was to Brown's choreo-direction; her fellow-countrymen Mark Morris and Marika Clarke have both tackled the Orpheus legend to bolder theatrical effect. The overall impression was of

nicely, if coolly, organised movement rather than the power of dance driving the action.

But you had to admire Brown's tactful handling of Jacobs's ensemble of singers, who came in all shapes and sizes and executed complex drill formations without missing a note. And she inspired a stunning performance from Simon Keenlyside, one of two singers sharing the title role between the four performances (he repeats it this evening). He has always been as good a mover as he is a singer, but on Wednesday looked as though he had been attending dance class for months, executing daring leaps, lifts and falls without, again, missing a note.

As for the notes, Keenlyside has a Lieder singer's spontaneity in response to words as well as a beefy operatic voice, here used sparingly; he poured out phrase after phrase of the utmost eloquence, his repeated "Rendete mi mio ben" in the scene with Charon piercing to the very depths of the listener's soul.

He was not alone in vocal accomplishment: Stephen Wallace's slightly bossy countertenor Hope, Graciela Oddone's properly communicative Messenger and Tomas Tomasson's gravely Pluto stood out from the supporting ensemble in a performance of great musical distinction.

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merrit Hargie

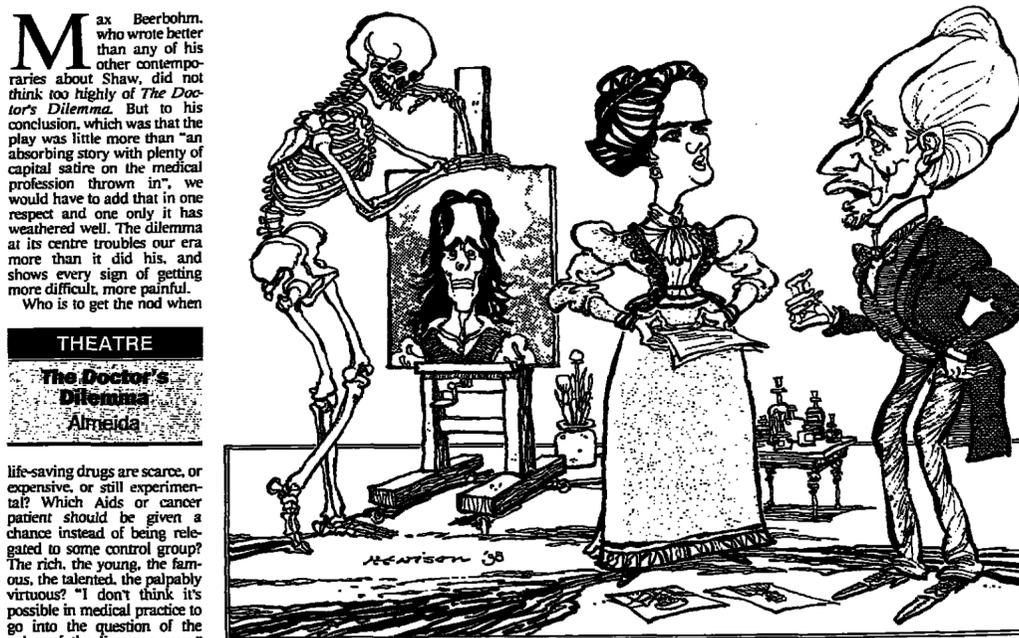
LONDON
BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY
CONCERTS: Andrew Linton returns to the podium...

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical...

NEW RELEASES
HURRICANE STREETS (15)
Teenage life on Manhattan's mean streets...

ARTS

A hard pill to swallow



Max Beerbohm, who wrote better than any of his other contemporaries about Shaw, did not think too highly of The Doctor's Dilemma...

Fantasy football

APART from the fact that he is from a mouldy corner up North, Billy Fisher is the done of every American dreamer since the helium years of the Beach Boys...

More black mischief

STEVE MARTIN once had great fun with the conventions of film noir - all dames and double-crosses - in Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid...

MUSIC

Russians on the road

NOT the least peculiar aspect of the Moscow Soloists' concert at York University would have been twice as effective if it had been presented in reverse order...

CONCERT

Moscow Soloists, Bassinet, York

This most intimate of all Shostakovich's quartets, there is no place for an orchestra. After the opening bars on solo strings, scarcely anything in the arrangement sounded right until the viola's unaccompanied, slowly and regretfully rising flight at the end...

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

committing. Her sister, Laura - played by Randwyck as a cross between Joan Crawford and Cruella De Vil - seems unperturbed. The rest of the evening reveals why, as Nora attempts to unravel the truth...

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POP ALBUMS

The new Oasis?

ARTS

POP OPINION

Who survives a split-up?

Mediocrity made to measure

NEW POP ALBUMS

EMBRACE The Good Will Out (Hut 8 46015 £14.49) THE long-awaited and much-vaunted first album by Embrace conjures an unwelcome sensation of déjà vu for a variety of reasons.

Indeed, whatever Embrace's credentials as the genuine article—and to give them their due, it has been seven years since Danny and Richard McNamara (singer and guitarist respectively) started the group in Huddersfield—The Good Will Out gives a pretty strong impression of having been designed to a marketing department's exact specifications.

From the clichéd front cover, depicting four shadowy figures striding purposefully along a street, to the lush orchestration and uniformly slow tempos, there is an air of calculated ambition about this album which is at odds with the "meaningful" emotions it purports to explore.

Maudlin ballads with skyscraper choruses such as My Weakness Is None Of Your Business and Come Back To What You Know are as ponderous and long-winded as their titles, while Fireworks is simply The Drugs Don't Work, Part II. And although the title track, among others, demonstrates an enviable talent for writing anthemic singalongs in the Hey Jude mould, they tend to overplay their hand, freightening songs such as One Big Family and All You Good Good People with absurd excesses of populist sentiment.

Although aimed squarely at a retro arena-rock market that is fast approaching saturation point, the album nevertheless pushes enough of the right buttons, and Embrace will probably be as successful as bands such as the Mission or perhaps even the Cult were in



Bespoke Britpop: Embrace's first album, The Good Will Out, gives "a pretty strong impression of having been designed to a marketing department's exact specifications"

the 1980s; and just as soon forgotten. A better title would have been The Hype Will Out.

HEATHER NOVA

Siren (V2 VVRI00187 £14.99) BLESSED with a distinctive voice, a fund of haunting tunes and honey-blond good looks, Heather Nova should surely be better known by now. But even though her 1994 debut album, Oyster, eventually sold nearly half a million copies, the Bermuda-born babe is one of those performers who show little enthusiasm for the task of climbing pop's greasy pole.

Rather like Judie Tzuke, a perennial underachiever from a previous generation whose

style she sometimes echoes on Siren, Nova presents a vulnerable yet self-contained persona in songs which thoughtfully examine the age-old themes of life and love from a feminine perspective. From the Garbage-like stomp of I'm The Girl to the delicately sketched quiver of I'm Alive, in which the bitter residue of a failed love affair is quietly but firmly exorcised ("I'm alive! survived you"), Nova brings cool passion and an elegantly poised chorus to the party. Perhaps she lacks the will and sheer force of personality to become the new Alanis, but Siren should, at the very least, propel Nova up to the next level.

This she does to good effect on tracks such as Cuba Libre, Lucky Girl and Don't Release Me, the latter boasting a

sublime horn arrangement by Tom Timko and Lawrence P. Derner and a curiously incongruous-sounding rap from Wyclef Jean: "When the Cubans meet the Haitians and Sicilians/Hold your corner, hold your corner". But although Gloria is a surprisingly energetic dance-floor album, there is a lot of dreary, glitter-ball disco fodder, such as I Just Wanna Be Happy and the current single Heaven's What I Feel, to wade through before you reach these nuggets.

BRIAN MAY Another World (Parlophone 7243 4 94973 £14.49) IT HAS taken the former Queen guitarist, Brian May, six years to come up with his second solo album, Another World, a compendium of hoary, power-rock riffing topped off with the sort of 1970s hipster doggerel which certainly makes it sound as if he is still living in another world. A song called China Belle starts off with the couplet: "There's a little lady

living down in old Beijing/She got everything you need, well you know what I mean", while multitracked guitars squeal like distressed dolphins and the late Cozy Powell lays down a kicking beat.

Ill-judged versions of Jimi Hendrix's One Rainy Wish and Mott The Hoople's All The Way From Memphis lend an air of desperation to this pointless project. One can only hope it is even longer before he visits the next one on us.

DAVID SINCLAIR

host a series of programmes that start out on ITV and slide inexorably to Channel 5. In 15 years, they will reform, but with their daughters in the band too: who will be referred to as the Spice Girls' Girls. They will sing Mama onstage every night and weep real Showbiz Brine.

Like every eight-year-old in Britain right now, I feel depressed about the Spice Girls.

CHRIS PARKER

Support act shows his class

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

NIELS-HENNING ORSTED PEDERSEN

This is All I Ask (Verve 539 695-2) WITH nearly 200 albums to his name as a sideman, the Danish bassist Niels-Henning Orsted Pedersen (NHOP), makes only rare appearances as a leader. As this rich and varied album demonstrates, this is a pity because, along with his unique accompanist's attributes—easy yet massive swing, a full-bodied but flexible and always sure-footed sound—he also takes both theme-stating and extended soloing duties in his stride.

He is also a gifted composer/arranger, as he shows on this album with some highly affecting versions of Scandinavian traditional material, as well as four originals in moods ranging from the funkily soulful (vocals by gospel singer Monique) to Fantasy in D Minor for solo bass, a work inspired by Bartok. Meshing perfectly both with his core band—guitarist Ulf Wakenius and drummer Jonas Johansen—and his guests (alto player Phil Woods, singer Monica Zetterlund, pianist Oscar Peterson), NHOP graces all he touches on this virtuosic but consistently accessible album.

PAUL ROBESON

Of Man River: His 25 Greatest (ASV CD AJA 5276)

ALTHOUGH it begins, inevitably, with the compilation's title-song (recorded in 1932), this 25-track selection then takes a roughly chronological path. Spirituals with pianist/arranger Lawrence Brown (1925-27) are followed by Southern nostalgia songs backed by Ray Noble's New Mayfair Orchestra (1929-34), a couple of highlights from Sanders of the River (1935), and further selections from Porgy and Bess and Show Boat (1936-38).

All the many cruel ironies of Robeson's life—he was a Columbia University Law School graduate expected to sing about his nostalgia for plantation life; a lifelong humanitarian and civil-rights activist whose career was ruined by anti-Communists—provide a disturbing subtext to the album, but they cannot detract from the sheer professionalism, integrity and dignity with which these deeply moving performances are permeated.

CHRIS PARKER

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Blue... Simply Red (East West)
- 2 Where We Belong... Boyzone (Polydor)
- 3 Talk on Corners... Corns (Atlantic)
- 4 Life Thru a Lens... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- 5 International Velvet... Catatonia (Blanco Y Negro)
- 6 All Saints... All Saints (London)
- 7 Urban Hymns... Verve (Hut)
- 8 Adore... Smashing Pumpkins (Hut)
- 9 When We Were... Rod Stewart (Warner Bros)
- 10 Ray of Light... Madonna (Maverick)

Copyright © 1998. Figure in brackets denotes last week's position.

GLORIA ESTEFAN

Gloria! (Epic 489850 £13.99) AS THE disappointing sales of her 1996 album, Destiny, attest, Gloria Estefan has become a diminished commu-

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

A life of Spice in variety

It takes talent to remake a band when the founder walks out. So where does that leave the Fab Five?

On Sunday, two of Britain's fuzzy gonks on the Countdown desk of international culture resigned. Both have enormous ties, and both were seen with Chris Evans mere days before their resignation/sacking. Is this man just going around ruining everything? Both typified that peculiarly British predilection for slightly tarnished, seedy, lazy heroes. Paul Gascoigne was supremely careless of his talent; he beat his wife and drank himself redundant. Geri Spice is the Fergie of pop—a busy ginge with no discernible talent but a bit of gumption and the ability to laugh at herself.

Despite the evidence of nearly every quote in the past two years, she's a smart girl. The first one out of any band automatically assumes the role of the Talented One. Andrew Ridgeley could never have left Wham!; like-wise Ringo with the Beatles or the comically hairy Howard with Take That. If he had, it would have been like this. Howard: "I'm leaving!" Door slams. Silence.

Gary Barlow: "Howard, you've just walked into my enormous Smeg fridge where I keep all my pies. Come out now: your matted hair carries disease." Pause. Howard, in a tiny voice: "Yes, boss."

The formation of a band is a mathematical equation. If you lose a number, it goes all lopsided and wonky. This was eloquently displayed at the first Spice Girls gig without Geri, on Saturday night: the remaining girls are standing in a now-fractured triangle formation on a sparkly staircase, "singing". Geri's place is glaringly empty. One wonders why they didn't just form a circle or run around quickly so nobody noticed the gap. Maybe Geri was the brains in the band, after all.

It's that kind of complacency and creative exhaustion that generally means when one member leaves a band, the whole thing implodes within six months. When a founder leaves, a band has to evolve, and fast. It has to turn into something new—because it simply isn't what it was before. When Peter Green left Fleetwood Mac, they started again: relocating to America, recruiting the godlike Stevie Nicks,

and transforming from a bluesy hard-rock band into Californian FM heaven. Likewise Pink Floyd, when Syd Barrett reversed all Rock Law, and ran away from a rock 'n' roll band to live with his mum. Dave Gilmour then simply remade Pink Floyd: turning them into Radiohead, and buying an inflatable pig.

However, at the point that founder-members leave bands, the band is usually hugely successful, and therefore home to egos as vast as Gilmour's pig. By this point, very few bands have the humility to start all over again. They limp arrogantly on, like the pub-rock Clash when Mick Jones left, the anemic Supremes when Diana Ross swished off, the risible Stone Roses when skin-bashing man-monkey Reni stomped out. At this point, cultural commentators do the

humane thing: they load their review-guns, take the band around the back of Wembley Arena, and shoot them. So, what for all five Spices now? Well, the thing is, none of them is really a star. None of them glows without wires, or bulbs going off in her face. They've always reminded me of the younger cast members of EastEnders or Coronation Street—picked to be fanciable but not unobtainable; talented but not so talented they can survive outside the studio; quirky enough to tell them apart when the label's fallen off, but not so chock full of quirk that they start taking dangerous drugs or painting their cars purple or saying something that doesn't end with a nery "innit?".

One imagines that the remaining band members will reel through the rest of their tour. I figure one of them will collapse onstage at some point. The band will split after their September dates, and Spice—the Best Of will ride Christmas's fiscal swell. After that, Victoria will marry and spend the rest of her life eating cream cakes; Mels B and C will have solo albums which, while not flopping, will nonetheless



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# mean time

## 'CNN? It was rat droppings'

Raymond Snoddy meets Chris Cramer, who quit the BBC to join Ted Turner

When Chris Cramer, then head of news-gathering for the BBC, decided to join "the absolute enemy" — Ted Turner's CNN — just over two years ago, not all his colleagues were impressed. In his internal mail, Cramer received 30 pieces of silver — 20p coins — carefully wrapped in silver foil. "Don't you just love the organisation?" says Cramer, who unwrapped the foil, spent the £6 and headed for Atlanta without a moment's regret. To become a rare Brit at senior level in a news organisation perceived by the outside world as very American.

cent of the programmes are specially made for it and only one of 20 anchors is American," says Cramer, who has nonetheless developed an American-style determination to beat the opposition into the ground.

As a child, Cramer seemed destined to join the Army eventually, like his father and two brothers. But he left school before taking his A levels and almost by accident became a trainee journalist on the *Petersfield Post* in Hampshire. His father, then in his early fifties, was retiring from the police force and was offered a job as a very mature local reporter. He disliked the fact that, because of union rules, he would have had to sign indentures like a young trainee — so instead Chris took his father's job.

Broadcasting came through hospital radio in Portsmouth and a weekly programme called *Chris Cramer's Laugh-In*. The president of CNN International shakes with laughter at the thought of it. "Unlike CNN, I had a captive audience," he says.

Cramer worked in regional radio and television for the BBC before setting up a television station on secondment for the Sultan of Brunei. He became a field producer for news correspondents covering stories such as Rhodesia, after a screen test had not gone well. "There is a horrible irony about the world getting smaller but coverage getting scarcer," he says.

Cramer also pushed through unpopular policies at the BBC, such as bi-media — ensuring that journalists could work in both radio and television. He also "took a lot of stick" for raising the



Chris Cramer: "There is a horrible irony that the world is getting smaller but coverage getting scarcer"

feign a heart attack to get out and help the security forces. "After that I became very jumpy," he says. "My imagination was far too fertile. Other people may have 'got on with it', I didn't. Actually I preter management."

In the years that followed, he was able to send expensive news crews to Chad after he saw a single paragraph in *The Sunday Times* forecasting an exodus of 500,000 refugees.

He also sent Michael Buerk to see whether rumours of a serious famine in Ethiopia were true. "It's tough now to deploy large numbers of people speculatively," he says. "There is a horrible irony about the world getting smaller but coverage getting scarcer."

Cramer also pushed through unpopular policies at the BBC, such as bi-media — ensuring that journalists could work in both radio and television. He also "took a lot of stick" for raising the

previously taboo subject of safety and pushing for the introduction of flak jackets in danger zones. He is absolutely convinced that no story is worth being killed or seriously injured for.

When the offer came from CNN, 50-year-old Cramer says it was the fastest professional decision he has ever taken in his life. "To be able to run the global news provider was a fantastic opportunity," he says. The fact that he was separated and that his daughter was at boarding school made it easier to uproot himself domestically.

Compared with his days at the BBC, the viewing numbers he has achieved at CNN International are small. The latest viewing figures show that the station achieves a daily "reach" in Europe — the number of people who watch at any time during the day — of 1.46 million. This compares with 1.03 million for Euronews; 219,000 for BBC World; 146,000 for CNBC, the

business channel; and 122,000 for Bloomberg.

Cramer is pleased that in the UK, according to the Independent Television Commission, CNN now gets a 0.1 per cent share of viewing. It may not sound much, but quite a number of cable and satellite channels do not make it to this illustrious rating.

Cramer says that CNN and the BBC are the only two broadcasters left in international news coverage: the others have largely given up. In his Atlanta office, one set is always tuned to BBC World, even though he believes it is under-resourced and losing money. "I am happy for them to muddle along," he says.

He intends to press ahead with the regionalisation of CNN International, but is not thinking beyond his present job. "Running four international news channels is tough enough for me," he says. "It certainly beats writing about bee-keeping in Petersfield."

## Learning to love the Eurofighter

Alex Benady reports on the launch of a tactical charm offensive

Despite a speed of Mach 2, the Eurofighter is not what you might call a fast-moving consumer good. Yet it has been packaged in much the same way as baked beans or yoghurt in a worldwide consumer advertising campaign that breaks this week.

The campaign is an attempt by the Eurofighter consortium to change public perception of what is invariably described in the press as the "beleaguered" or "troubled" fighter project. It even uses a form of "pester power" — usually aimed at children — to achieve its ends. "We haven't been able to defend ourselves against criticism because the project wasn't a certainty until contracts were signed in January last year," says Charles Carr, the vice-president of communications for Eurofighter. "Now we have a production contract for 620 planes and we want export orders for another 350. It is time to put our case and correct misconceptions."

Ads have appeared in the military press and will extend to titles such as *The Economist*. They will also appear in the quality press in potential export markets such as Norway and Australia, and a campaign on CNN is being considered.

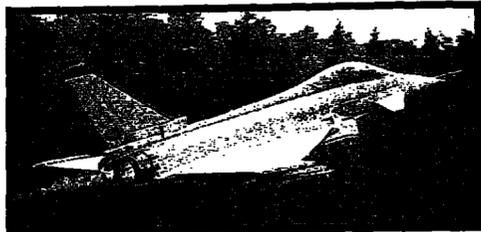
Unlike most advertising for armaments — which consists of a product shot with a list of technical specifications — the Eurofighter ads attempt to engage on an emotional as well as an intellectual level. The first ad shows a picture of a blue sky and asks which of two dots far in the distance is the more

dangerous. The copy explains that the Eurofighter has already told the pilot. Other ads focus on Eurofighter's performance in long-range combat and air-to-surface operations. They all conclude with the tag line "superiority for pilots".

Carr says: "We looked at the competition — other planes such as the F16, the F22, Rafale, and Mig 29 — and decided that what made us different was the quality of the man-machine interface." Clearly, this is an attractive sentiment for the pilots and the military establishment who are the fighters' consumers.

The ads aim to stimulate them to put pressure on government purchasers — an adult form of pester power. But these days there are other important considerations. Defence expenditure has to compete with other needs, such as schools and hospitals, which are also competing for funds, says Paul Uhart, the vice-chairman of the advertising agency Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, which created the campaign. "Accordingly, the ads also target opinion-formers, taxpayers and export customers. We know that policy-makers use group discussions to test public opinion. We want to prime opinion in those groups."

The advertising campaign is part of a larger charm offensive being launched by the consortium to capture the hearts and minds of the public. It has embarked on a series of press briefings and promises surprising consumer-focused activity for later this year.



The Eurofighter: the campaign is on to give it a soaring image

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# Redtops get the blues

## Stuart Higgins has felt the tabloid squeeze, says Michael Leapman

Navels — along with other intimate parts of the body — are the stock in trade of the redtop tabloids. This week their editors found themselves in the unusual position of gazing at their own.

The spark for this rare exercise in self-examination was Wednesday's sudden departure of Stuart Higgins as Editor of *The Sun*. It was the inexorable consequence of a long period of decline in the paper's sales and in those of its rivals, the *Mirror* and *Daily Star*. The days of the raucous, in-your-face tabloid, hell-bent on titillation and shock, may be coming to a close. *The Mirror* has already undergone a shift in approach, and the *Daily Star* is due for a redesign next week that is also expected to give it a more upmarket image.

One version of Higgins's departure has it that he objected to moves by Rupert Murdoch's News International — owners of *The Times* as well as *The Sun* — to impose a similar change in emphasis on the country's best-selling tabloid. News International's executive chairman, Leslie Hinton, himself a former *Sun* reporter, declined to confirm or deny that speculation yesterday.

Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, *The Sun*'s main rival, says: "It's inevitable that the redtops are going to be at the blunt end of circulation decline with the advent of TV news and the Internet. Multimedia is bound to hit our end of the market first and biggest. If our readers can get it for nothing on TV, why should they fork out for the paper? The challenge for all of us over the next few years is to find ways of preserving readers and gaining young readers, and it's a very hard job. Over the past six months we have worked out a new strategy for *The Mirror* that appears to be paying off. *The Sun* is clearly going to try something new as well."

Murdoch has evidently been worried about *The Sun*'s performance for some time. Early this year he invited its women's editor, Jane Moore, to meet him in Los Angeles to discuss how the paper could be made more attractive to women. *The Sun*'s most recent audited sales figure, for April, was 3,699,301 copies a day. This is still way ahead of *The Mirror*'s 2,312,421 but the gap is narrowing. For the six months ending in April, *The Sun*'s circulation was down 5.61 per cent on the previous year, but *The Mirror*'s declined by only 3.27 per cent.

Why, though, have the redtop publishers come to the unanimous conclusion that a move upmarket is the only way to stem the decline in their readership? The reason is the continuing success of the mid-market *Daily Mail*, whose six-month average is 6.67 per cent up on last year and whose April figure of 2,294,124 is only a few thousand below *The Mirror*'s.

Sir David English, the chairman of Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, says: "My view is that the redtops should be returning to more mainstream journalism, less magazine and less comic cuts. I think *The Mirror* has got it right and

it's a good thing for journalism too. The revolution that started with *The Sun* and changed everything I think has run its course."

Not everyone agrees. Some believe that the reason for the decline of the redtops is not that they are too downmarket but that they have lost the pizzazz of a decade ago. Evidence that Stuart Higgins's *Sun* seemed to be losing its killer instinct came last month over the story of Paul Gascoigne and Chris Evans sharing a kebab in Soho. A young student of journalism photographed this notable event and tried first to sell the picture to *The Sun*. On being rebuffed, he went to the rival *Mirror*, which made the most of the scoop. *The Sun* had to catch up expensively by paying Gascoigne (£130,000, allegedly) for his exclusive account of being dropped from England's World Cup squad.

In his farewell speech to staff on Wednesday, Higgins compared his departure both to that of Gascoigne and Geri Halliwell, who quit the Spice Girls at the weekend. That begs the question whether he went voluntarily, like Ginger Spice, or under protest, like Gazza. Despite the official statement that he left at his own initiative and is destined for an unspecified executive position within News International, the industry suspects that he was forced out.

Higgins's five years as *The Sun*'s Editor, after 15 years on the paper, have been difficult ones. To begin with, he had an impossible act to follow. His predecessor was Kelvin "Gotcha" MacKenzie, indisputably the best tabloid editor of his generation and now masterminding *The Mirror*'s revamp. Then, in the run-up to last year's election, Higgins had to oversee a complete somersault in *The Sun*'s political allegiance. The death last year of Diana, Princess of Wales, blamed by the public partly on the tabloids' intrusion into her privacy, led to pledges to clean up their act. Higgins had to steer the paper through another sharp change of course.

A chubby, almost cuddly 42-year-old — perhaps too cuddly to be an effective editor in the cut-throat world of the tabloids — Higgins's main achievements were in the field of royal reporting. While it is an exaggeration to say, as *The Sun* did yesterday, that he "broke the greatest stories of the century", he used his friendship with Camilla Parker Bowles to gain some notable scoops about her and her Prince of Wales. His successor, David Yelland, is 35. A former *City* reporter for *The Sun* — scarcely one of the most onerous jobs in journalism — he has emerged in recent years as a favourite of Murdoch. After going to work in the paper's New York bureau, he was made deputy editor of Murdoch's *New York Post*.

Higgins will be mourned by former colleagues. For some months now *The Sun* has run, beneath its titlepiece, the slogan: "Dedicated to the People of Britain". Yesterday that was altered to: "Dedicated to Stuart Higgins: We'll Miss You". Unlike some things that appear in the redtops, that is probably quite close to the truth.



# THE Sun

Thursday, June 4, 1998 28p DEDICATED TO STUART HIGGINS: WE'LL MISS YOU

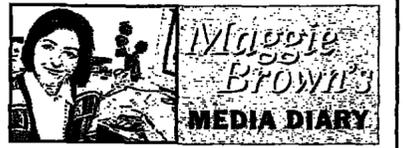
Stuart Higgins, and yesterday's mashead. Was he losing the killer instinct as *The Mirror* closed in?

# The end of comfy drama

ITV is debating whether to whip up controversy by making a gritty drama documentary about the pardoned Saudi nurses, creating a special 90-minute event along the lines of the Hillsborough film. But there is resistance. Nick Elliott, the network's drama head, has already ordered a drama about the Stephen Lawrence case; veteran screenwriter Paul Greengrass is attending the murder inquiry and the piece should be screened immediately after it reports. And Peter Kosminsky, following his searing incest drama, *No Child of Mine*, is making a harrowing reconstruction of school bullying, *Walking on the Moon*. It is part of the big break with comfy drama demanded by David Liddi-

THE rival producers of *ITV's Diana: The Secrets of the Crash* and Channel 4's *Dispatches* on the subject fought out a vicious live duel in the subsequent TV debate this week over whose research was best. But it all goes to show that factual programmes make riveting viewing. There's been a big increase in commissions for documentaries — Meridian, benefitting from Carlton's problems, has won deals for 25 hours — including a series of biographies. Odd how long it has taken TV to catch up with the appetite for real lives.

LEAVE the media and get a life. Michael Grade, ex-chief executive of Channel 4, and his third wife, Francesca Leahy, are expecting a baby in Novem-



grammes. He knows we really want to go to our beds with troubled minds.

ber. She is at pains to point out that they married in December, in the Caribbean. It's a planned event.

ONLY the other day, a top TV analyst moaned that Michael Jackson's new Channel 4 had shown no appetite for controversy. But his new team has dusted off a languishing proposal for a documentary on 17-year-olds, *Boxing Girls*. Airmage Productions is shooting hot footage of female amateurs flogging it out in the ring. The programme is being rushed into the October schedule.

THE Royal Television Society's Fleming lecture is the most prestigious event of the year but the big guns were strangely absent from Trevor Phillips's eloquent missive this week. Apart from Lord Holford and his wife Sue, the other media barons gave it a miss. No John Birt, Alan Yentob, Michael Green, Sir Christopher Bland or Clive Jones (Carlton Television). "It really made Trevor's point that the upper echelons of British broadcasting are totally white and unaware of potential black managerial talent," commented a furious RTS committee member. Very true.

ANDREW MARR, ex-Editor of *The Independent*, made his debut, as forecast here, in the improving *Express* this week. But it is being coupled with a second column for *The Observer*. There are plenty at the Guardian Media Group who think his natural home should be *The Guardian*'s Oped page; but resident columnist, Hugo Young, as chairman of the Scott Trust (which owns GMG), is unassailable.

IT HAS been a great week for score-setting. Jan Hargreaves, about to become a journalism professor but sacked in 1996 as Editor of *The Independent*, laid into "the black farce that has been David Montgomery's career" in a vicious polemic for *The Independent*. Former *Independent* journalist Peter Dunn, one of the many to be sacked by Hargreaves, described Hargreaves loyally parroting the Monty line that quality newspapers don't need reporters in a letter to *The Guardian*. "It makes you wonder what on earth his journalist students at Cardiff have to learn from him," says Dunn. Oh, come on, doesn't he remember that old adage that starts "Those that can do..."

PAUL ROBINSON, the chief executive of Talk Radio, hired a suite at Planet Hollywood for a discussion with Sky presenter Andy Gray on its World Cup coverage and was thrilled to find crowds lining the street and a red carpet in place. He started greeting the queue. Alas, the restaurant was holding a fifth anniversary party and shareholders Bruce Willis and Sylvester Stallone were due. Talk Radio's do downstairs attracted about 100.

# Digesting a little bit of good news

## Bridget Harrison reports on the week's publishing success story

Next Thursday, one of the biggest publishing success stories of the 1990s, *The Week*, celebrates its third birthday. The news digest magazine that was started from a garage in Paddington, London, by Jolyon Connell, former deputy editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, and Jeremy O'Grady, a former film censor, now has 36,000 subscribers and is already wooing readers from abroad.

Connell conceived the idea on holiday in Scotland in January 1994. Having to read every paper, every day for editorial conferences, but finding he still missed good stories, he realised that a magazine would be the ideal way to combine the best pieces from all the papers.

"During the 1990s, Saturday newspapers increased in volume by 40 per cent, but people are busier than ever. The idea of a magazine seemed to make sense," he says. Connell left *The Sunday Telegraph* in September 1994, and, after trying unsuccessfully to raise finance for his idea in the City, launched the magazine on a subscription basis with £200,000, funded by the sale of his house. The first issue in May 1995 had 250 subscribers who were mainly family and friends. The total

now is 37,000. A month after the launch, Felix Dennis, the proprietor of *Maxim*, *Stuff* and *Computer Shopper*, wrote to Connell saying he was impressed by the magazine. Connell approached him five months later when facing financial difficulties and Dennis is now a majority shareholder.

Central to *The Week*'s format are news and comment from Britain and across the world, condensed into pithy pieces in which sources are credited.

Although the magazine shares subscription lists with the *New Statesman* and the *Spectator* (William Hague, Max Hastings, Alan Rusbridger, Simon Jenkins and Dominic Lawson all describe it as essential reading), Connell denies that it is stealing *The Spectator* readers. "I see *The Week* as a complement to other current affairs magazines, not a replacement." Last month, *The Guardian* launched a news digest, called *The Editor*, but *The Week* is yet to feel threatened. "Anything that does well will attract something similar. I suppose we should feel flattered," says Connell. "The Editor" is part of *The Guardian* Saturday package. It is unlikely to give equal publicity to other papers' output.

# The moment a newspaper editor dreads

Few of his rival editors were gloating this week after Jonathan Holborow, the Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, was forced to make a prominent apology on his front page to the actress Brooke Shields after reporting falsely a week earlier that she had been searched for drugs at Nice airport.



## Brian McGarvey PAPER ROUND

Well, let's be honest. They probably gloated for a few moments — but not for long. All editors recognise that what happened to Holborow could happen to any of them. Cut to *The Mail on Sunday* office on Saturday, May 23. It is the day of Ireland's historic "yes" vote for peace, an obvious front-page "splash". Ulster rarely sells newspapers, however. What a tabloid editor needed for a mix of serious politics and human interest was a front-page picture, preferably of a glamorous woman.

Suddenly, at 5pm, the newsdesk got a tip-off from France. It was the Brooke Shields story and seemed a godsend. The tip-off was checked in Cannes, the story "stood up", and Holborow published it on the front page and all of page 3.

The paper was hardly on the streets before the first call from Keith Shilling, the lawyer acting for Brooke Shields, who reputedly demanded damages of up to £500,000. Those of us who have been there know the sinking feeling editors get in the pit of their stomachs when they realise that a story has gone

horribly wrong. It happened in 1977 to Sir David English, who is now Holborow's Editor-in-Chief. As Editor of the *Daily Mail*, English published a report by Stewart Steven on the "amazing truth" about the state-owned car manufacturer British Leyland and a multi-million-pound overseas "slush fund" for paying bribes and undercover commissions.

It happened to Kelvin MacKenzie, as Editor of *The Sun* in 1987, when he published a story headlined "Elton in vice boys scandal" based on the confessions of a rent boy. It happened to me twice, over the Hitler Diaries on *The Sunday Times* in 1983 and a *Today* report in 1986 that Diana, Princess of Wales, was pregnant with a third child. Few actions by newspaper editors arouse more cynicism than their conduct when they have made a mistake. Newspapers hate owning up and when they finally acknowledge that they were wrong they try to bury any apology or correction. That is why there is a lobby which demands that corrections should be published in as prominent a position as the original offending article.

Newspaper apologies that have made the front page can be counted on one hand. Holborow's main rival, *The Express on Sunday*, reported on its front page on May 3 that the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman had made defamatory remarks about Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. Kaufman was misinterpreted and copied a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission to *The Express*.

An apology was published last week, four weeks on, in a single column on page 9. Kaufman says that although he would have preferred equal prominence, he got more than was originally offered and he had not wanted continuing contention. It is those two words "originally offered" that are telling. Once he realised that the story was wrong, Holborow decided on an apology that was given exactly equal space in exactly the same position as the article of the previous Sunday and reputedly paid £100,000 to Shields or a charity of her choice. It could be argued that he had made a "horrendous" mistake. Yet Shilling confirms

that it was Holborow himself who offered to add a personal apology on the front page. "Readers are entitled to expect an apology if we make serious errors of judgment," Holborow says. "Editors must take the rap and stand up and be counted. It is important to establish trust."

Weasel words, critics will say, but it is humiliating to say sorry so prominently and requires courage. Saying sorry and quickly, moreover, certainly wins more respect from readers than the usual apologies buried on inside pages.

That was what Sir David English discovered in 1977 when the British Leyland scoop was shown to be based on a forged letter. English owned up in a long message to readers. Sometimes the

*Mail* was human and got things wrong, he said, and occasionally it was misled and got things very wrong but it was not dishonest. His paper prospered and Stewart Steven went on to become Holborow's predecessor.

MacKenzie paid Elton John £1 million in libel damages and said "Sorry Elton" across the whole front page. "Life is too short to bear grudges and I don't bear *The Sun* any malice," Elton said.

When *Today* said sorry for its Princess Diana scoop, which was wrong, Buckingham Palace was so surprised that it rewarded us with a scoop. The apology for the Hitler Diaries fiasco — they were faked — took the sting from a situation deeply embarrass-

ing to a paper with a proven record of successful serials and investigations.

Several newspapers are now discovering that it pays to say sorry or to explain editorial decisions to readers. Rosie Boycott has taken her *Letter From the Editor* from *The Independent* to *The Express* and *The Guardian* has appointed Ian Mayes as Readers' Editor. His Corrections and Clarifications column is mocked by some journalists but it has become a highly readable vehicle to satisfy disgruntled readers.

There were nine yesterday, including one gem: "Pass Notes on Lucian Freud yesterday, page 3. G2, concluded: 'Note to subs: It's Lucian not Lucien. The Reader's Editor is even scarier than he is. It's Readers' not Reader's.'"

Oops... there are times when editors simply have to stand up and be counted

# Wot the masses want

**Carol Midgeley reflects on an extraordinary week on Britain's news desks**

Listeners to Radio 4's *Today* programme will have heard a snappy exchange this week between Gary Richardson, its resident sports reporter, and Rebekah Wade, the deputy editor of *The Sun*.

Ms Wade appeared on Tuesday's programme to talk about her exclusive interview with Paul Gascoigne hours after he was booted off the England World Cup squad. In the newspaper, Gascoigne admitted that he was drunk the night before he got the axe, a story that was eagerly followed by the rest of the media.

To hear Mr Richardson's interrogation of Ms Wade, however, you would have thought she had flown to La Manga and administered the lager to Gascoigne herself via an intravenous drip. During the brief interview, she was interrupted four times by the agitated Richardson, who demanded that she explain precisely why Gascoigne had not simply restricted his intake to "half a lager", whether he had been paid for the interview, and what on earth he thought he was doing?

Why the normally astute Richardson thought Ms Wade was morally responsible for Gascoigne's actions, when she was merely the messenger doing her job, was unclear. What was clear, however, is that *Today* saw this essentially as a tabloid story and one which, therefore, must be treated with a large dose of disdain. It did not, of course, stop them using the scoop as the lead story during their bulletins.

Few stories have demonstrated TV and radio's skill in having their cake and eating it better than the Gascoigne saga. Broadsheet newspapers, it must be said, can also be adept at this practice, getting round the problem of covering so-called "downmarket" stories by standing back and focusing on the tabloids' treatment of them. All



Eyeless in Gaza: it was a week when traditional news values were abandoned as even the upmarket media adopted a tabloid agenda

the broadsheets except *The Independent* placed the story on Page 1 on both Monday and Tuesday. Indeed, the journalist Stephen Glover accused *The Times* of excessive coverage of the issue and treating Gascoigne "as though he were a great statesman".

But this week has served as a particularly striking illustration of how ready TV and radio now are to take a tabloid agenda on stories which they might once have reported straight. On Monday, Radio 4's prestigious *PM* programme devoted a lengthy piece to the Gascoigne debacle. The reporter had "doorstepped" Gascoigne's family in Gateshead but, getting no comment, recorded their dogs barking inside the house instead — a scoop which was duly broadcast on air. The local news-

agent where Gascoigne's sister had bought the papers that morning was also quizzed and was able to confirm that she "seemed upset". Gosh!

The mighty *Newsnight* illustrated part of its Gaza item by having the psychologist Oliver James sitting in London's Pharmacy bar (where the wayward genius famously got drunk) musing on the fact that such talents also have extreme personalities.

Gazza. Meanwhile, and with a touch of irony, *News at Ten*, ITN's supposedly more downmarket counterpart, led on the Shadow Cabinet reshuffle.

The BBC says that Robin Oakley's extended item on the Shadow Cabinet was completed only ten seconds before the *Nine O'Clock News* went on air. Industry observers point to the BBC's recent review of its news coverage, which concluded that the public wants more people-led stories, although it values serious reporting from foreign countries. A BBC news source says: "It was gut instinct to lead with Gazza. To be honest, more people were talking about it than the Shadow Cabinet reshuffle and I don't think there were many regrets. Nobody complained about it anyway."

in communications at the University of Westminster, says: "There is a definite shift to more tabloid values among the serious press and the main TV news bulletins. You could look at it two ways — as part of the mass drift downmarket or that our perception of news is changing. We are dropping our elitism and the belief that pieces on Sudan should top the news agenda and taking the view that popular news, what the masses are really talking about, should be the priority. At the moment, there is a schizophrenia about it. You can see TV trying to bridge that gap between popular and serious. I think the BBC has been heavily influenced by the recent news programmes such as the *Nine O'Clock News* were becoming out of touch."

## They think it's all over, but...

There was a certain amount of rejoicing last week that the talks between BSKyB and the English Premier League on pay-per-view football had apparently collapsed.

It is easy to portray such things as a victory for soccer supporters over the satellite broadcasters and some football clubs which have been trying to force as much money out of long-suffering fans as possible. The BBC was among many news organisations to report the decision as if it was a final rejection of pay-per-view football. The truth is much more complex. The main issue with the clubs is money and the only uncertainty is about the best method of obtaining the maximum amount without threatening the long-term health of football. It is clear that as digital television creates the opportunity for pay-per-view football within the next few months — by offering the necessary channel capacity — the commercial chances will soon be seized.

Ironically, one effect of the breakdown in talks between the league and BSKyB — a company in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake — will be to deprive fans of up to four more live television Premier League games each week in the new season.

Two things seem to be on the minds of the Premiership bosses, apart from their share prices. The first is the revenue split on pay-per-view deals a 50-50 split is normal. But the league wants a 60-40 split in its favour and BSKyB is standing firm, at least until negotiations resume.

The league may have a different agenda — and want to exploit its own pay-per-view rights. If it decides to go ahead during the remaining three years of the existing contract with BSKyB, then the satellite company effectively has first refusal on any pay-per-view deals. The league could decide to move slowly and carry out only a few experiments between now and 2001. When the contract is up then the league could hire its own director of

television and lease capacity on the Astra satellite and run its own channel, including pay-per-view. It would be a courageous thing to do, as the league would cut itself off from the skills of an organisation such as BSKyB, not to mention the important subscriber management system.

What is certain is that a way will be found to charge viewers. But conditions have to be right. There must be no ambiguity over who owns the rights and there has to be something to reveal that viewers will want pay-per-view. That is, perhaps, why little has been heard from Bernie Ecclestone on his plans for a stock market flotation for Formula One on the back of pay-per-view revenue. Apart from the issue of who owned what, there was the problem that terrestrial TV deals were already in place for the grand prix races — such as that with ITV in Britain. Were there really enough grand prix fans prepared to pay to see the races?

By comparison, football seems ideal for pay-per-view because there are so many matches not yet seen live on television and the game attracts dedicated supporters prepared to indulge themselves. If the league is wise, it will, in future, try to slice up rights to ensure a better balance between pay or subscription television and "free to air" action.

There is no reason why one match a week could not be sold to terrestrial television, in addition to the existing Sunday afternoon and Monday evening games on BSKyB, or its successors.

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# It's time TV took a history lesson

A fixation with newsreel images imposes crippling limitations on history programmes, says Jad Adams

The death of history was much exaggerated, but television history is looking decidedly bleak. History on television is popular with audiences and critics, but it increasingly seems to be straining at self-imposed boundaries — there are reruns of the same events (don't we now know everything we could possibly need to know about the Nazis?) and an excessive emphasis on spurious revelation. Yet it is not history that is limited, but the sort of history broadcasters are prepared to transmit.

Over the past few years history has been virtually excluded from BBC1 and ITV; Channel 4 and BBC2 have generally taken it from a very limited pool of 20th-century subjects. The reason for the concentration on the 20th century is that it gives us moving pictures: commissioning editors seem fixated on the notion that viewers must see film archive or they will switch off. This means drawing programmes from a frequently mined seam of newsreel film. It limits even the 20th-century subjects which can be covered to those for which there is "good archive".

How many times can we see John Kennedy's birthday party with Marilyn Monroe in the flesh-coloured sequin dress breathing out *Happy Birthday, Mr President?* Or the boys going over the top in what was in fact a contemporary staged reconstruction of the Battle of the Somme? Or the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales?

With archive material being re-used to the point of tedium, we must find new ways of making history programmes. While a little work has been done on this, the territory is unendingly vast once we break into it. The great challenge is to present history before the 20th century.

It will not be easy. The naked Indian baby hanging on the back of a water buffalo will symbolise for ever the partition of India, but what do we do to depict the pain and cruelty of the Indian Mutiny almost 100 years previously?

There have been some recent attempts at history before the 20th century. Seventh Arts' impressive *I Caesar* was essentially radio with pictures, but it shows how compelling viewing can be made from a first-class script combined with patient camerawork to get the best from such three-dimensional objects as commemorative statues.

On the other hand, there have been some disasters. Pre-1900 history on television should not be doomed by the vision of David Starkey demonstrating Henry VIII receiving a message by being handed a FedEx package; or the fondness of the Tudor king for identifying with the military being demonstrated by Margaret Thatcher in a tank.

Mentorn Barracough Carey's *The Crimean War* was patchy but deserves an accolade for its ambition, and for the creative use of rostrum on contemporary paintings. It proved you can have moving pictures if you have the right rostrum moves coupled with the right music.

Then there was the BBC's appalling *Quest for the Holy Grail*, with its repeated images of a knight plodding

through the glen, so redolent of *Monty Python*. This programme, presumably because it was made as a co-production with The Learning Channel (US), contained very few interviews, for "talking heads" are eschewed by American ratings fixers. Yet most of the meaningful events of our lives take place through conversations. The talking head can convey every human emotion and almost every fact. The problem is not with heads or faces, it is the unimaginative way directors use them.

To make history live, historians have to recount historical events as if they were actually there. Nothing is as compelling as personal testimony. Historians can be like war correspondents: you interview them to give you a picture of something that they have pieced together from many reports. A person who has spent 20 years studying the potato famine can certainly describe it in as much compelling detail as reporters have used recently in describing famine in Africa.

History is also livelier if it is viewed as the dynamic political discourse it was when it was actually happening. Controversy is a positive force, not one that gets in the way of telling a story — very often the controversies between historians are the story. This does not lead to unacceptable complexity: if the viewers can watch controversies on current transport or social policy, they can enjoy balanced disputes about suffrage or slavery.

The saddest thing said about pre-20th century history is that there are "no pictures". In fact, there was never a time when we did not record the events of our culture visually. They exist in carvings, sculpture, paintings, mosaics. The problem is not that these things were not done, or that they were somehow inadequate to the task which is achieved today by BetaSP tape, it is that we are inadequate in our interpretation.

In any art gallery of 19th-century paintings, present-day visitors walk past looking as long at each picture as they would at a television commercial. Yet the people for whom those pictures were painted, particularly the larger action pictures, would pay sixpence to enter a gallery and look at one painting for more than an hour. There is simply more in the art than we are trained to see, yet with creative rostrum camera work, under the control of a good director, the world of the past can be made to live for us.

There is the unlimited richness of the past waiting for producers and broadcasters if they will only show the will to unlock it, and give a future to television history.

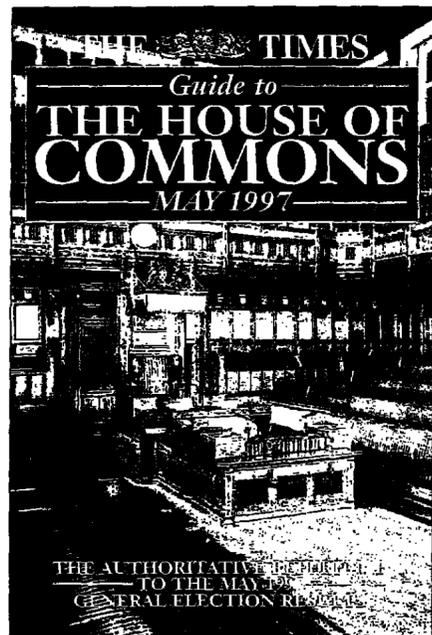
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Looks familiar... a rostrum picture can be just as effective as hackneyed archive footage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Somme or Monroe

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## Lineker in crunch time

■ PRAISE in this column last week, for the delightful new Walkers' ad starring Romario, proved the kiss of death for all concerned. Not only will the Brazilian superstar now miss the World Cup, but the ad agency BMP DDB immediately lost the account. Not that anyone in the UK knew that much about it. The £11 million Walkers business here moved as part of a global realignment by its parent company, PepsiCo's Frito-Lay, into the BBDO network. Frito-Lay's European marketing director, Martin Glenn, heard about it only when he read the news on a fax from New York.

The switch was greeted with incredulity among the London advertising community. The trend towards global consolidation into one agency appears inexorable. Indeed, this week BMP DDB won Compaq in the same manner. However, the switch makes a mockery of what most agencies strive to achieve for their clients. BMP's Walkers campaign has been an unqualified success on whatever level you choose to look at it.

Since the Lineker campaign began in January 1995, a little-known brand with forgettable advertising has mushroomed to become a household name and one of Britain's largest food brands.

Lineker, originally chosen because he shared Leicester roots with the company, has proven such a successful spokesman that it has both helped him shed his wooden image, and allowed Walkers to create a flavour around him — Salt 'n' Lineker. The commercials have even won industry awards, more rare than you might think for a series so popular with the public.

Nevertheless, the account moved. Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO now faces an interesting conundrum. Does it commit and land herey and carry on using another agency's work, or does it risk the brand's



Stefano Hatfield

success by dumping the Lineker campaign?

The agency's management recognises it would be daft to abandon one of Britain's most popular and successful campaigns. Law books have been consulted to establish exactly who "owns" the advertising, and who has rights to use it.

It's not simple. Copyright resides in the creatives who devise the script, until it is handed over to a commercials director to shoot. The director then has copyright over his (it usually is his) film, until the agency completes payment for it. The finished film is then the property of the agency's client.

So, there is no question that Walkers owns the Gary Lineker campaign, and — subject to the former England captain's contract — can continue to use him through another agency if it so desires.

Expect a compromise in this case. BMP will continue to make Walkers'



A crisp shot from Lineker

ads featuring Lineker for a slow handover period until his contract runs out, and then AMV will come up with something completely new. It will be a tough act to follow.

■ JOURNALISTS rushing to kick Gaza while he's down have sought to prove that he is no longer a marketable celebrity spokesman. Perhaps so, at least in the short term. But there are precedents to suggest that his endorsement days are not necessarily over. Nike stood by Eric Cantona after his attack on a fan, and Tony Adams capped a long road back from alcoholism this season by being signed up by Jaffa Cakes.

Gazza's best hope for now is probably his kit sponsor, Adidas, with whom he has had a long association. But it will depend on a successful return to top-flight competitive football.

Long term, it's a different story. In ten years' time, when all the dentist's chairs and kebabs are remembered as fondly as his stunning talent, Gazza will fall into the category of lovable old sporting rogue now occupied by George Best, Ian Botham and John McEnroe.

■ BIG smiles all round at ITV and virtually every media buying agency in town this week. The Office of Fair Trading announced that it had no grounds upon which to conduct a full-blown investigation into the manner in which television airtime is traded.

That's all well and good, but it doesn't mean the matter will go away. Any system as complicated to understand, and as bolstered by the status quo, as television airtime trading will unravel once an outsider makes inroads into our insular market. Does it seem unlikely? Well, so was the idea of Axel Springer owning the Mirror Group until it became public last week.

■ Stefano Hatfield is the editor of Campaign

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# EDUCATION

Nigel Williamson reports on a novel approach to music; Jane Owen, right, hears some first notes

## Teacher who has got the rhythm

**LOST IN** last week's controversy over the funding of state schools was an announcement to cheer the beleaguered lobby struggling to preserve school music. While other local authority services will have to take their chance with school governors, money for music will be earmarked for at least three years.

The exception is David Blunkett's response to a decade of decline in funding for music, and fears that the subject's reduced status in the national curriculum could hasten its demise in primary schools. His stated aim is to give all children the chance to learn to play an instrument. Despite the unevenness of current provision, many schools have maintained high standards, as we report here.

Many primary schools reacted to the Government's demand for more time to be spent on literacy and numeracy by planning to cut music, a *Times Educational Supplement* survey showed last month. The Associated Boards of the Royal College of Music have painted an equally bleak picture of the decline in school instrumental tuition for all age groups, Nigel Williamson writes.

In the independent sector, however, some schools are moving in the opposite direction. The classic example is Millfield School, in Somerset, which for the first time in its history has appointed a composer-in-residence.

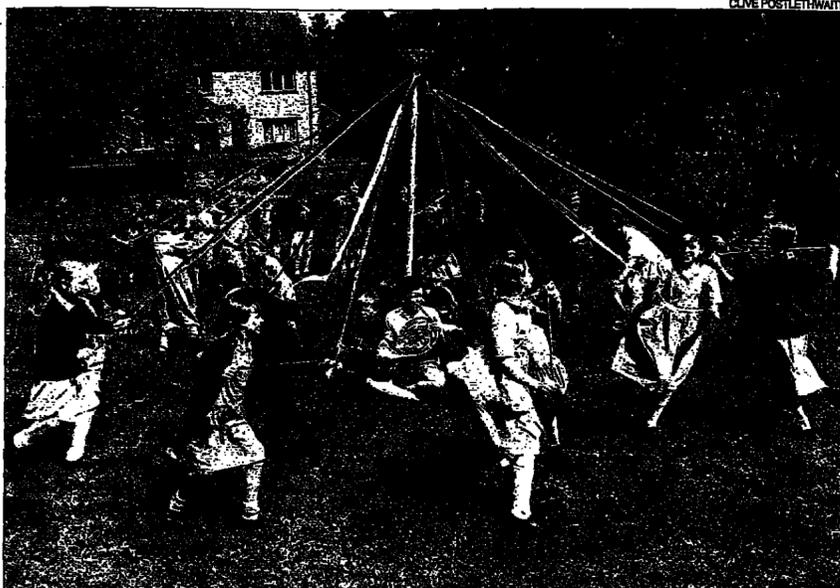
Forget all those triangles and tambourines that once meant schools music. At Millfield, music teaching today involves digital technology and even recording a school CD.

Mark Emney, 43, a composer who has written extensively for television, film and the theatre, is now into his third term in what is believed to be a

unique post. The results are already tangible. There have been two packed concerts of original material in Wells Cathedral, some extraordinary compositions written by students for GCSE music examinations and the recording of the first part of an ambitious cross-curricular piece of music drama called *Rhythms of Life*.

Mr Emney says: "I have a son at the school and the idea came out of chatting to the new headmaster. I told him my ideas, he called the music teacher over and it developed from there. The school is very serious about it. They see it as a long-term programme with a publishing deal for a Millfield series of music projects."

The first movement of *Rhythms of Life*, involving more than 100 students, had its debut in Wells Cathedral before Easter. "It's about how rhythms affect all our lives from the womb onwards," Mr Emney says. "The idea is to involve the whole class in the production. I realised from my own children how much knowledge they can absorb through music. Obviously,



Pole position: children at Buckland Church of England Primary School benefit from the work of a dedicated staff

you need specialists in the school orchestra and choir but everyone was involved, from a percussion ensemble through to making the set and operating the faders on the mixing desk.

By the end of the summer term, Mr Emney hopes that four or five different movements will have been recorded by students. When all eight movements have been completed next year, the work will be made available on CD-Rom as a learning tool to other schools.

"It is modular and aims to teach music in different ways," he says. "A school with limited facilities can adapt pre-recorded material from it. The idea is to make it so versatile that anyone can use it, whatever talents and resources they have."

Mr Emney's duties, which are meant to occupy one day a week but inevitably take up far more, involve working with three or four classes from the prep school, but he is also coaching members of the upper school for GCSE music examinations.



Emney: resident composer

He says: "Millfield, like everywhere else, has problem children, and there is a big social mix. It is easy to work with the so-called bright ones, but I have been helping those who are thought to be struggling. Most GCSE music compositions are done on an electronic keyboard with some rhythms and a few chords, and are frankly not very good."

He cites three examples. "There's a Turkish pupil who is a brilliant footballer but who had never sung before. We've recorded a work he wrote in Arabic and it is

amazingly good. Then there is a dyslexic youth who had lost all confidence but is now writing really well, and a third boy whose education was suffering from appalling migraines. He had written a poem about it which began 'there's a pain in my brain'. I pointed out the basic rhythm there and then we turned it into a piece of music."

It has been a steep learning curve for Mr Emney, too, who had no previous teaching experience. He admits: "I was a bit apprehensive when the head asked me to go into the classroom but he said 'Give it a go and see what happens'. I'm not a teacher but someone said I was an educator and I will settle for that. The response from pupils, staff and parents has been remarkable."

This term, in addition to working with the school on his own composition, Mr Emney is giving up Saturday mornings to help pupils to record their work on a CD, which will be put on sale through the school.

"It is a two-way thing and I

am learning as much from them as they are from me. Composer-in-residence is a grand title and I could write lots of pieces for my own ego but the most rewarding thing is to go into the classroom and find a key that opens a door for the youngsters."

Above all, he believes, the music has to be accessible. "A lot of people are going into musical education and producing stuff that children simply do not want to perform. You have to provide something they will enjoy. I try not to make it too complicated."

Indeed, Mr Emney's entire philosophy of music education is based on its universality. "If I was asked to justify the programme," he adds, "I would say that it helps to unify the school. And it generates a feeling of well-being."

"Music is a foundation stone and can be the base of the school pyramid," he says. "You have to build an ethos over the long term and take a few risks but already I would say this is quite simply the most rewarding thing I have ever done."

## Budget way to sing and play as you learn

A village school in Oxfordshire is in no position to match Millfield's musical endeavours, but with three choirs and half the pupils learning an instrument, Buckland Church of England Primary School shows what can be done on a limited budget, Jane Owen writes.

The school came eighth in the county in this year's league tables, but it is equally proud of its extra-curricular activities, especially its music. Almost half of the 88 children will be involved in a musical and one of the three choirs in the Queen's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Among the other activities on offer are an orchestra and a maypole dance team. A dedicated staff give up their spare time to make it all possible, despite overcrowding which has resulted in the (outside) lavatories being used as a temporary reading room.

Ray Burley, the international concert guitarist who teaches classical guitar at Buckland, has yet to conduct lessons in the lavatory, but lack of space has forced him to teach in the kitchen of the headmaster's house.

My daughter, Rose, goes to the school and, like other parents, I sometimes help with the reading. On good days I bag the staffroom before music teachers or fellow readers get in. If not, I listen to a child reading as we perch in the classroom where some of the pegs have to be shared. Every now and then our powers of concentration are tested as we are interrupted by French horns, cellos, guitars, clarinets, violins and flutes as they worm their way past to go to music lessons in the staffroom... or the headmaster's kitchen. Until last

year and despite these absurdly cramped conditions, the school orchestra used to play at charity concerts as well as performing in the village hall, a 300-metre walk from the school which the children do every day for their lunch because there is no room in the school.

The picturesque 19th-century school house packs four years into two classrooms separated only by a folding screen door; one temporary classroom outside holds half the infants and the other half have their own classroom. Pam Speed, the school secretary who doubles as unpaid music teacher, piano-player and costume-maker, works in a room in which even brooms could be forgiven for feeling claustrophobic.

But the show goes on. The head's wife, Christine Last, who teaches at the school, coaches one of the choirs to sing regularly at Dorchester Abbey and she puts on annual concerts and pantomimes.

We just have to beg and borrow. I write the script from videos and write to the copy-right people with pleas of poverty. They are usually good about it but it means we are not allowed to make one penny from any of the performances — not even from refreshments.

Thus, despite the hard work of governors and Friends of Buckland School organisation, there will never be enough funds within the school to pay for an assembly hall (about £250,000) or an extra floor in the high-Victorian school. No money has been spent on the school since 1974, says Mr Last, who has run it for 22 years.

The show goes on: the head's wife puts on concerts

## Lessons from the butler out in the paddy fields

In an attempt to save its students the trouble of visiting the littered streets of Britain, a Tokyo school of English has created its own England on its doorstep. Japan's mountains are now the unlikely home to an £20-million school annex built in mock Tudor style. More unlikely still is the presence of Stanbury, the English butler, who runs the show.

Created by the Sano Educational Foundation as an "international training centre", British Hills is designed to give 18 to 20-year-old students of English from Sano's Kanda Institute of Foreign Languages (KIFL) in Tokyo a chance to experience England without leaving Japan.

This little Albion, perched 1,000 metres atop a mountain, has little in common with Cool Britannia and strives instead to give students and corporate visitors a taste of the traditional England, an England, that is, of received ideas — gentlemen, peaseoupers and olde-worlde style.

The mountains around British Hills are undeniably Japanese — rising from the flat paddy field valleys like immense molars in a giant's jaw — but the 11 or so Tudor-style barns huddling around the pond are remarkably English-looking. And so they should be. The whole earthquake-proof village was built by the British company Border Oak and transported from the UK.

Located in Shirakawa, 90 miles from Tokyo, British Hills is used by each Kanda student for five days in the school year to "improve their English ability and to experience a different culture through various activities". Students check in just like they do at a hotel, and use British Hills pounds, not their ordinary Japanese currency.

Activities include sitting at high table, lessons in art, cooking, calligraphy, learning Western table manners, orienteering and a little snooker practice in the billiards room. The students get to practice for real in the English public school-style refectory, with real English food — cooked by an authentic French chef.

The classes take place in the manor house; this is a classy reproduction of grand English living with overtures of Citizen Kane and his weekend-house folly, and the initials RS appear everywhere.

Stanbury, the butler, explains: "They are the initials of the present chairman, Mr Sano. It was his mother who had the idea to create this village where young Japanese students could come and experience a culture shock: where they could simulate a journey to a foreign country."

Stanbury runs the English classes and tutors the students in Western-style et-



So near, and yet so far: the new brochure for British Hills School

In the mountains just 90 miles from Tokyo, Japanese students are seeing a possibly too traditional image of Britain

quette. "We do our best to carry on the idea of living in Britain to the extent that we print our English pounds here. It helps to convey this reality of travelling abroad," he says. The coins will buy anyone over 20 a drink in the Falstaff pub, and it's not cheap at eight real English pounds to the pint. In the less formal atmosphere of the impressive half-timbered bar, the students talked more easily about their impressions of British Hills and Britain itself. Overall, the students were glad to be away from their cramped campus in central Tokyo and not to have to face their usual long commutes.

Takeo Yamamoto, 19, who usually has a journey of an hour and ten minutes to school each day, said: "The table manners I learnt today are very useful. I'm going abroad next year. I like to talk to foreign people. Most people speak only Japanese in school, so it's difficult. Students at my school are not serious about learning English."

True enough, most of the students had only a rudimentary grasp of the language, despite one year's intensive English study at KIFL and English lessons at school since 12.

The query "How old are you?" elicited the answer "Very hungry" from 19-year-old Karu. Perhaps it was too much Old Speckled Hen, but English comprehension was fading fast and it was time to push on in Japanese.

One voice suggested that they were there to protest against the French, to which another replied: "Is this supposed to be France then?"

Greg Mulcahy, a former teacher from KIFL, pointed out that the most curious thing about British Hills is that it is staffed mainly by New Zealanders. He says: "Apparently, all the staff were Australian but they did not last long."

The New Zealanders, who are not much older than the visiting Kanda students, work as teachers and hotel staff, and were clearly overwhelmed by living at the Hills. It is too much of a regime, they said, too isolated and too British to make it an interesting exile in Japan.

Toby Bryant, one of the bar staff, says: "It is full of actors, just keeping the act going. But I'm sure the kids really enjoy themselves here. The campfires, that kind of thing — it's all great fun for them."

After their week of British living, the students were back in Tokyo, sprawled out over the steps of the main office-like campus building. Did they learn anything in Little England? Not a great deal, it seems. The only things they thought memorable were calligraphy and "bad taste food".

Despite their nonchalance, the students are sad to find they can spend only a week there. Mr Mulcahy says. The students think they will get more of a taste of life abroad at the Hills, he explains, and are attracted to the main school by this bait.

He says: "British Hills just doesn't work as an educational experience. It is yet another example of the xenophobic Japanese mindset, where they have to create something from another country in their own country. They'd rather experience England in Japan than the real thing."

MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

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CRICKET

Rejected Caddick excels to heighten Warwickshire woe

By SIMON WILDE

TALUNTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 182 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Somerset

WARWICKSHIRE are in trouble and no mistake. They were given an absolute roasting by Somerset yesterday and it is not their first this season. Forced to follow on 234 runs behind and tottering to a second-innings 53 for three by the close, they are in serious danger of losing by an innings for the second time in four championship matches.

It would be easy to blame Brian Lara for what went wrong because a spectacular collapse dated from the time that he was caught in the slips aiming a luscious off-drive at Rose from a ball that left him off the seam. Yet, in his previous 24 balls, he had struck five of the sweetest boundaries off Caddick and had good reason to think that this was his day.

Asked to bat again nine overs before stumps, he calm-

ly and skilfully played out time and Warwickshire's hopes of escape depend on a big innings from him today.

It would be more accurate to blame some of Lara's colleagues and give Somerset credit for magnificent cricket. Caddick, Rose and young Bulbeck consistently swung the ball off a probing line and were duly rewarded.

Of the 13 wickets they took in the day — six to Caddick, four to Rose and three to Bulbeck — who had earlier made an impressive 35 — six



Rose: quick wickets

were leg-before, four bowled and three caught in the wicketkeeper-slip cordon. Caddick, who has a habit of bowling like the wind when rejected by England, took all three wickets to fall in an uncomfortable last hour for Warwickshire.

If the Somerset fast bowlers did the simple things well, Warwickshire's batsmen did not and neither, in retrospect, did their bowlers, some of whom are considered to be close to the England team. They allowed Somerset's lower order too much licence in raising their overnight score by 111 to the challenging heights of 364 and Trescothick would surely have got his first hundred for two years had he not got himself out by setting his mind on sweeping Smith.

The pre-season championship favourites may or may not be a happy crew under Lara, and the Trinidadian may be short of the runs expected of him, but too many of the side are out of form at the same time. Warwickshire have yet to total 350 in the championship this season.

Knight is an honourable exception, being the only specialist batsman with a championship hundred to his name and carrying his bat through yesterday's paltry first innings of 129 for an unbeaten 67, carefully put together over 3 1/2 hours. When two batsmen carry their bats in successive matches — Powell did so against Nottinghamshire to the rest of the batting has to be performing poorly and, as was the case when Surrey won with an innings to spare six weeks ago, Warwickshire are virtually at full strength.

If Lara was not captain — and the matter has been the subject of hot debate since he was appointed last autumn — Knight might have been leading them here as Munton, who was removed to allow Lara the post, is unfit. Smith, another candidate, is now less certain of his place in the championship side, as he picked up his third successive nought yesterday. Hemp has two half-centuries in nine innings. Penney none in five and Brown one in eight.

From the time Lara was out, Warwickshire lost six wickets in ten overs and appeared to have no idea how to stop the rot. Welch alone was able to keep Knight company but even then Somerset's accurate bowlers kept the runs down. They put on 45 runs in 21 overs but the follow-on, which Rose expedited with two wickets in two balls, was inevitable.



Ben Hollis plays precisely into the offside at The Oval yesterday in his 51

Shahid proves Surrey's enviable depth of talent

By BARNEY SPENDER

THE OVAL (second day of four): Worcestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 388 runs behind Surrey

NADEEM SHAHID is not a name that is likely to drag in the spectators on an overcast morning, but he lit up the second day of this game with a sparkling innings of 124. It made sure that Surrey lost none of their early-season momentum.

A surfeit of England players in a county side has led in recent years to mediocre showings in the championship. It is no coincidence that Glamorgan lost only the services of Robert Croft last year while Leicestershire, in 1996, were deprived just of Alan Mullally. If Surrey — likely to be without Mark Butcher, Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe for much of the summer — hope to win their first title since 1971, they need some special efforts from the bit-part players.

So far in this game, they have responded superbly. On the first day, Ratcliffe and Ward gave the innings an excellent base with a partner-

ship of 164 and, yesterday, Shahid, who shared century stands with Alistair Brown and Ben Hollis, built on that to give Surrey a firm grip on the match.

Adam Hollis's declaration shortly before tea left Worcestershire with the task of making 352 simply to avoid the follow-on. They soon lost Solanki to Tudor, who blotted his copybook by bowling six no-balls in five overs, and Hafeez, but Graeme Hick, sensing the opportunity for his 101st century, stood firm.

The honours, though, went to Shahid. He resumed on 12 and played with such confidence and touch that it is hard to understand quite where his career went off track. As a youngster at Essex, he slipped comfortably into the "highly promising" category as a leg-spinning all-rounder, but somehow never fully developed in the shadow of players such as Gooch and Hussain.

He was not alone in that and, when he departed at the end of the 1994 season, Nick Knight also left Chelmsford.

The following year, Jon Lewis left. While Knight, however, has gone on to play for England and Lewis has established himself as a cornerstone of Durham's batting, Shahid is still some way from being a regular in the Surrey line-up. Now 29, he appears to have accepted the understudy's role which restricted him to seven championship matches last year.

It hardly inhibited him, however, as he matched Brown shot for shot in the early stages, both taking advantage of some thin Worcester bowling. Shahid's fifty came from 112 balls and reached his sixth century, and fourth for Surrey, from a further 57 deliveries. It included one six and 15 fours and by the time he departed to his only slog he had struck another six fours.

Brown clubbed Sherriff for two sixes and eight fours as he gambled to 72 from 103 deliveries. When Sherriff had his revenge with the new ball to end a partnership of 153, Ben Hollis stepped in effortlessly, easing the ball with precision for his 51.

Smith finds his form in captain's innings

By I O TENNANT

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Hampshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 22 runs behind Glamorgan

AS THE new captain of Hampshire, Robin Smith has sufficient to contend with before he can fret overmuch about his own batting. He has not been in any sort of form this season. His innings of 84 yesterday, easily his highest score so far, was all the more impressive for its watchfulness over four hours, as well as occasional dominance, on a pitch that often made run-gathering problematical.

To what extent Smith's form has been affected by the encumbrance of captaincy is a matter of conjecture. He is not one who can easily look to his own game when his side is struggling at the bottom of the county championship table. There is a concern, too, that at 34, his eyesight is not what it was, but none of this was apparent yesterday.

There was still something in the pitch for the seamers, of whom Glamorgan had plenty in the absence, at Edgbaston, of Croft. Smith was dropped when he had made 20, at long leg off Thomas, Parkin not quite managing to hold a top-edged hook as he retreated towards the boundary boards and that ferocious square drive was soon in evidence.

The cover-driven four off Butcher that took Smith to his half-century was another crashing shot. White was a subdued partner — he had little option, really — but his was an innings that will have delighted his captain and was indicative of why Hampshire could afford to leave out Lane, who is supposed to have a brighter future than most. When White was caught at mid-on, mistiming a drive off Watkin, he had made 56, with nine fours, in exactly 56 overs.

The middle-order initially could not improve on that. Keech was caught at the wicket down the leg side off Butcher, commendably opting to walk. His place in the side is far from assured. Mascarenhas went leg-before to the same bowler and, when Smith, who hit ten fours, was caught behind off one that Watkin drifted away from him, Hampshire were 163 for five.

The partnership that followed was unexpectedly proficient. This was Aymes's 34th birthday and, in the course of adding 84 with Whitaker, he reached 5,000 first-class runs. He is too old now to play for England, but the umpires on the county circuit, as good judges as any, have a considerable regard for him. Hampshire finished the day 22 runs behind.

Lancashire revival bid dashed by Loye

By JOHN THICKNESS

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, lead Lancashire by 18 runs

IAN AUSTIN, the powerful Lancashire all-rounder, all but succeeded in winning his side the initiative yesterday at Wantage Road. On the second day, he followed his punishing innings of 64 in the morning with two cheap wickets in the afternoon.

Yet Northamptonshire were saved again by Mal Loye, their No 3. Playing his first innings in the championship since his 322 not out against Glamorgan last month, the 25-year-old right-hander scored another stylish hundred and pushed his tally past 400 since his last dismissal.

By the close, he had been batting for 267 minutes and had hit 16 fours off 223 balls, he and Tony Penberthy turning the game again with a fifth-wicket stand of 105.

Loye never seemed in any difficulty, being as happy on the back foot as on the front and being armed with a good supply of scoring strokes on each side of the wicket.

Contrarily, he gave two chances, although the second, from a run-out, arose only from a full-length diving stop at mid-off by John Crawley, whose throw from a recumbent position narrowly missed the stumps.

His other life, at 41, stemmed from an equally well-middled stroke, a lovely pick-up-cum-hook off Chapple that Austin, five yards in from the long-leg boundary, missed overhead and right-handed. The rebound ran over the rope for four.

A brilliant diving catch at second slip by Flintoff, at Montgomery's expense, started the Northamptonshire decline, but a misjudgment by Bailey, who shouldered arms and lost his off-stump, and a loose stroke by Curran, the captain, who was caught at third man while attempting to put the ball over extra cover, reduced it to its low point of 73 for four.

At the restart, Lancashire, who resumed at 152 for eight, seemed to be destined for a score well below 200, but Austin's well-judged innings took them to 230 before Taylor had him leg-before. Martin, Austin's partner in a ninth-wicket stand of 84, was bowled by Malcolm with the score unaltered.

Windows in frame for another century

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

CHESTERFIELD (second day of four): Gloucestershire won, though Barnet, forsaking his leg spin to bowl nagging seamers, returned figures of two for 15 in a 17-over spell as Gloucestershire lost their impetus in the afternoon.

Barnet supplemented a batting average of 75 in his new role at No 4 this summer by enticing Hancock to hoist a catch to mid-on and then bowling Alleyne in sight of a half-century. In his 38th year, Barnet still plays the game with a smile. He was grinning after almost every ball and seemed mildly amused by his own success. As for Hancock, he regretted his lax stroke every stride back to the pavilion. It cost a him a fifth first-class hundred in precisely 100 matches.

After the loss of the first day to rain, Gloucestershire probably failed to score quickly enough to inspire ambitions of a first win at Chesterfield in 27 years, but, after a ponderous spell, Windows and Hewson regained momentum in a partnership of 150 in 50 overs.

Without Cork, the Derbyshire attack lacked a cutting edge, though Barnet, forsaking his leg spin to bowl nagging seamers, returned figures of two for 15 in a 17-over spell as Gloucestershire lost their impetus in the afternoon.

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

British Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

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Essex v Nottinghamshire

ILFORD (second day of four): Essex, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 112 runs behind Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings M P Downes c Robinson b Rott 48 R J Robinson c S G Law b Iram 31 UJ Alzajal c S G Law b Iram 31 G P Archer c S G Law b Cowan 63 N A Gie c S G Law b Iram 12 P J Francis c Roling b Such 30 I C M W Reed b Iram 27 A P Strong c S G Law b Iram 30 M N Bowen c S G Law b Iram 0 A R Green not out 28 Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 12, nb 2) 38 Total (110.1 overs) 342

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-106, 4-226, 5-266, 6-268, 7-276, 8-318, 9-318

BOWLING: Iram 21.1-5-6-4, Cowan 28.6-75-1, D R Law 10.2-4-0, Iram 22.8-65-3, Such 23.9-7-2, Grayson 6.3-15-0

Middlesex v Durham

LONDON (second day of four): Durham, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 162 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings J L Langer c Collingwood b Woods 35 M R Brown c Gough b Bates 3 P N Weales not out 53 P J Hewitt c Bopha b Harrison 53 N J Bannister c Speight b Harrison 6 P C Turner c Speight b Harrison 7 T P Birtwhistle c Speight b Bates 0 Extras (b 5, lb 5, w 2, nb 18) 34 Total (70.5 overs) 230

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-56, 3-120, 4-138, 5-161, 6-163, 7-308, 8-314, 9-330

BOWLING: Bates 23.6-63-4, Wood 25.6-89-1, Foster 9.2-19-1, Harrison 25.6-58-4, Collingwood 8.2-26-0, Phillips 13.5-17-0

Northamptonshire v Lancashire

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 18 runs ahead of Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings N Wood bow b Rose 19 G Smith c Taylor b Rose 19 N H Fairbrother c Bailey b Taylor 7 Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 12, nb 2) 38 Total (110.1 overs) 342

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-106, 4-226, 5-266, 6-268, 7-276, 8-318, 9-318

BOWLING: Iram 21.1-5-6-4, Cowan 28.6-75-1, D R Law 10.2-4-0, Iram 22.8-65-3, Such 23.9-7-2, Grayson 6.3-15-0

Surrey v Worcestershire

THE OVAL (second day of four): Worcestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 388 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First Innings J D Ruddle b Hogg 100 J J Ward bow b Hogg 64 N Shahid c Newport b Haynes 124 A J Hollis bow b Hogg 51 B C Hollis bow b Hogg 51 A J Tudor b Haynes 28 I D K Salisbury not out 28 M P Bicknell not out 7 Extras (b 3, lb 15, nb 14) 502 Total (174.5 overs) 1445

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-164, 2-182, 3-183, 4-336, 5-440, 6-442, 7-487

BOWLING: Newport 21.9-42-0, Sherriff 22.2-118-1, Moody 13.6-40-0, Lampard 12.5-58-0, Blythe 10.3-30-3, Parnes 12.4-45-3, Solanki 10.1-44-0, Leathcote 1-0-0-0, Hick 3-0-10-0

Yorkshire v Leicestershire

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 228 runs behind Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings D L Maddox b Hinchinson 144 J J Sutcliffe c Wood b Hamilton 30 B F Smith c Bailey b Hamilton 4 A Habbis c Wood b Hamilton 10 P V Simmons c Wood b Hamilton 21 R O Mason bow b Vaughan 63 J M Dalvin c Bailey b White 0 C C Lewis c Stamp b Silverwood 38 R D Middleby not out 28 Extras (b 4, w 6, nb 8) 18 Total (93.5 dec, 94.3 overs) 353

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-66, 3-66, 4-116, 5-158, 6-228, 7-230, 8-267, 9-353

BOWLING: Silverwood 17.3-48-1, Hamilton 19.2-67-3, White 18.3-11, Stamp 18.6-64-2, Vaughan 6.1-22-1

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AA Car Insurance advertisement with phone number 0800 444 777 and details of the promotion.

CRICKETLINE advertisement for England v South Africa, featuring live commentary and scores.

Advertisement for Stuart Law, 106 for Essex at Ilford, featuring a photo of the player.

Advertisement for Vince Wells, 144 at Headingley, featuring a photo of the player.

Advertisement for AA Car Insurance, highlighting the benefits of the promotion.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured, mentioning 'Headstr Law le bowlers fight'.









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Wilkinson prepares to answer Woodward's prayers

# SPORT

**GOLF 50**

Hilton hammers out warning to Amateur rivals



FRIDAY JUNE 5 1998

Former captain returns to the ranks but still leads England from the front

## Atherton revels in new freedom

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

**EDGBASTON** (first day of five: South Africa won toss; England have scored 249 for one wicket against South Africa)

THE first, diffident rendition of God Save the Queen had rolled down from the cheap seats before lunch and, by tea-time, the crowd was in full voice, already intoxicated by visions of a third successive England win at Edgbaston. Out in the middle, Allan Donald completed an over off his short run and glared ruefully at the pitch as if he could not recognise it.

Amid the premature triumphalism and the pique of deflated bowlers, Michael Atherton remained impassive, doing what he does best. Five minutes before the close of a remarkable, one-sided day, he completed his first century in 13 Test matches in the first innings of his new, unencumbered career. Life without captaincy evidently suits him.

There was a pleasing symbolism in the presence of Alec Stewart, his successor, as Atherton reached his hundred with a thick edge for four. Stewart shook his hand warmly and Atherton interrupted his stroll back to the crease with an uncharacteristic kiss of his helmet badge. The South Africans looked on, grimly aware of the advantage they had squandered.

On a dank, dark morning,

Stewart's first visible act as captain had been to lose the toss and South Africa, it seemed, were to bowl in Utopia. Apprehension was tangible around the ground — everywhere, apparently, bar the England dressing-room.

Stewart has emphasised that he has no magic wand, but there was a touch of sorcery to what happened next. There was help for the bowlers in the pitch, slow though it was, and the longer the day continued the more the ball swung, yet England did not lose a wicket until half an hour into the final session.

Atherton and Mark Butcher

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batted with great skill and a necessary share of good fortune as they shared the biggest England opening stand since Atherton and Graham Gooch put on 203 in Adelaide in 1991. Meanwhile, South Africa bowled without discipline, their excesses of width culpable and costly.

The bat was beaten on innumerable occasions and the edges invariably fell short of the close catchers. Shaun Pollock bowled two spells that might easily have brought him a clutch of wickets, but there the mitigation must end. South Africa could and should

have bowled England out yesterday; instead, they are fighting to save the game.

It is not often that the modern South Africa side can be accused of profligacy on this scale. At times, the bowling was inept in its failure to control the available movement. Boucher, the wicketkeeper, was forced to dive left, right and left again, like a gymnast.

That it was not quite the pitch they would have chosen was quickly obvious. Rain had left the surface soft and lacking in pace. The bounce, too, was relatively true, only a couple of balls keeping low, but it moved off the seam and in the air and South Africa wasted it.

Let this not detract from a monumental performance by the England openers, both of whom began with the need to prove something. For Butcher, controversially preferred to several other contenders, it was a case of convincing at the highest level; for Atherton, who did all that years ago, it was a sense of starting again.

Butcher was soon on-driving pleasantly, rising above the farcical delay when commercials stuck on the electronic sight-screen and surviving what looked a compelling shout for leg-before from Pollock when he had made 11. Atherton spent 32 minutes on nought, but it was a masterful, unflustered nought.

The sun broke through before lunch, but it made little difference to the equation in the middle. Donald could not find his line or rhythm and the selectorial theory that he could be disturbed by a left-hander at the top of the order was being richly vindicated.

Neither batsman could make much of Pollock, for whom movement was extreme, but the back-up bowling was as modest as England had hoped. Between lunch and tea, indeed, there was a bizarre passage in which Kallis bowled a series of wild overs and Cronje, replacing him, bowled deliberately wide of off stump. Still, they could buy a wicket neither through accident nor frustration.

Atherton's scoring was symmetrical — 50 in three hours, 100 in a little under six — and the majority of his runs came behind square on both sides of the wicket. The edges, though, were mostly controlled and he gave nothing resembling a chance.

Butcher was briefly calmed in the twenties but then proceeded with growing confidence to his third Test half-century. By tea, the openers had made 65 each and Steve Rouse, a groundsman beleaguered by a sequence of unsatisfactory Test pitches,



Halfway there: Atherton leaps to turn a ball from Donald for two to reach his fifty yesterday

gave an interview with a satisfied smile, to which he was fully entitled. Even Pollock lost control after tea as the ball swung ever more, and the extraordinary prospect of a day devoid of wickets was looming until Butcher edged a sweep against Adams.

Having waited more than four hours, Hussain was having a brief break with his pads off when the wicket fell, so Stewart entered instead. His day might have been tarnished as he almost played on to Cronje before he had scored, but with Atherton now

in complete command the pair added 70.

Before play, England might have felt that 300 would be a competitive score. They will seek substantially more now, then hope to demonstrate how to bowl on this pitch. This match is there for them to win.

## Centurion plays a waiting game

Michael Henderson admires a resolute display of the opener's art at Edgbaston

Michael Atherton was back to his resolute best yesterday and England weren't half glad of it. His first Test hundred for 17 months, in his first innings since he relinquished the captaincy, was just what they needed at the start of a summer that will surely stretch nerve and sinew to the limit. This was a day that he, and England, can be proud of.

In the first hour, when the ball was new and Donald and Pollock were running in, nostrils ablaze, he took half an hour to get off the mark and, when he did, it was with a shot that would have been fielded by a third slip. After tea, as he steadied himself to bat through the day, ten overs brought him only two singles. Was he fretting? What, Atherton? He couldn't have been happier.

A Test match such as this, when outstanding bowlers have first use of a helpful pitch and the chance of building a healthy first-innings score rests in his hands, is Atherton's favourite stage. There are any number of

ambitious young batsmen waiting for him to fail, so that they can have a go. They will just have to wait.

When he stood down in March, there was a peculiar story in one paper that he might no longer be welcome in the dressing-room. The story suggested that players might rally under his flag as though he was Charles Edward Stuart in his Roman exile, waiting for the restoration of the true monarch. Atherton was stung by it, calling it "cruel", and he even considered legal action.

Even in triumph, or partial triumph, since no batsman ever wins the war outright over a series against bowlers as good as Donald, he was not shouting from the rafters. "It was never a day when you felt 'in,'" he said. "Pollock must have beaten the bat 30 or 40 times and we needed luck to survive. The ball swung and seamed and you had to work

hard for your runs." He worked hard, as he has set himself to do since returning from the West Indies, and he earned his luck.

The edged boundary that carried him to his twelfth Test hundred was one of his few flawed strokes. For the most part, this was a measured innings of real class, suited ideally to the demands of a rigorous day's cricket. Rarely has he played better.

This made for absorbing viewing, all the more so for being the first day of the series against opponents who will scrap every inch of the way until they go home in August. To enjoy the day, though, it is necessary to watch closely and there were clear signs as early as the first over that not everybody was prepared to make the effort.

When Donald ran in at 11am, to get the summer properly started, a treble chorus from the pre-teen spec-

tators in the Rea Bank Stand accompanied him every step of the way. There was a time when the first ball of any Test was observed in rapt silence. Custom demanded it. Now, it seems, anything goes. It's showtime.

As Atherton and Butcher battled away in a gripping morning session, determined to resist two fine fast bowlers, sections of the crowd were more interested in starting that wretched waving business — and singing. Far too often, the behaviour of Test match crowds bears no relation to what is actually happening on the field.

There was no excuse for some of the buffoonery. What sort of chump is it who bounds on to the field toggled up like an Old Compton Street tart? It's very sad, but people have lost the art of watching cricket. Atherton's batting was wasted on too many of them yesterday. Punish them, Michael, but in the proper manner. Do it all over again today.

## Seles back on song after those years of heartbreak

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

IN AN upset of seismic proportions, Monica Seles set aside her debilitating personal circumstances to bring down Martina Hingis, the world No 1, in the semi-finals of the French Open yesterday. The tremor may have struck here at Roland Garros, but ripples will be felt in countless households around the world.

Never mind that Seles routed a player who has been high on unbeatable since she rose to the summit 18 months ago. Her triumph was gained after personal setbacks so severe that she has done well to retain her sanity. That she could find such expression just three weeks after the death of her father, Karolj, after a long and painful illness offers hope for tortured souls everywhere.

Seles, 24, appeared to have found a measure of redemption from her opening match in this tournament. "I wasn't that confident in my game, but in a weird way I had a peace of mind," she said. "I felt content with my decision to play here. That helped, because in the past five years I was never really content with any decision I made."

Dressed in black throughout this tournament, Seles felt it inappropriate to dedicate this triumph to her late father. "My dad wanted me to do what I wanted to do and tennis is one of the things I love to do," she said. "I miss him tremendously, but, win or lose, it doesn't make any difference in whether I think about him."

Seles, of Yugoslav extraction but now resident in Florida, learned of her father's plight soon after she was stabbed by a deranged fan in Hamburg five years ago. At the time, she was the game's raging force. From January 1991, she won seven of the eight grand slams that she contested. Her ferocious, double-handed hitting raised the game to a new dimension.

How remarkable it was that this woman — once the scourge of crowds for her grunting, graceless dominance — should be accorded a standing ovation after beating Hingis 6-3, 6-2. In the final tomorrow she will meet Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who beat Lindsay Davenport.

Final flourish, page 54

### SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

**ENGLAND:** First Innings  
M A Butcher c Kallis b Adams ... 77 (272min, 214 balls, 7 fours)  
M A Atherton not out ... 103 (268min, 275 balls, 12 fours)  
\*A J Stewart not out ... 28 (86min, 63 balls, 3 fours)  
Extras (b 17, lb 16, w 8) ... 41  
Total (1 wk, 92 overs, 358min) ... 249  
N Hussain, G P Thorpe, M R Sampson, M A Atherton, D G Cook, R D B Owt, D Gough and A R C Fraser to bat.  
**FALL OF WICKET:** 1-179 (Atherton 66)  
**BOWLING:** Donald 19-5-43-0 (w 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 14